THE SCOTS MAGAZINE.

For JANUARY 1799.

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EDINBURGH:

Sold by JAMES WATSON, No 40. South Bridge,
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And by T. KAY, Strand, London.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS OF PLANTS, CALLED BORONIA.

From Smith's Natural Hiſtory.

THE country of New Holland, ſo rich in botanical novelties, has made us acquainted with ſeveral new genera of M. de Juſſieu's natural order of Rutaceæ, which promiſe to contribute very conſiderably to the ornament of our green-houſes. Theſe plants are in many reſpects allied to Dioſma, and like that genus their flowers are beautiful, and their foliage highly aromatic, though not always pleaſantly ſo. In ſome inſtances the ſcent of the flowers is very agreeable. No genus among the whole tribe is more worthy of notice than that to which I have given the name of Boronia.

Boronia is moſt allied to Dictamnus and Dioſma, but the leaves of every ſpecies being oppoſite, prevent its being arranged near the former, as the order is now ſubdivided in M. de Juſſieu's work. In fact, a much better diſtribution of theſe genera may probably be contrived when more of them are diſcovered and defined.

Four ſpecies only of the genus in queſtion have hitherto been detected among the dried ſpecimens collected near Port Jackſon, by Mr White; and only one of thoſe, the Boronia Pinnata, has been introduced into our gardens.

The genus here, for the firſt time deſcribed, is intended to preſerve the memory of a martyr to the ſcience whoſe indefatigable zeal and ſingular acuteneſs would ſoon have procured him other claims to ſuch an honour, had his premature fate been poſtponed. Francis Borone was born at Milan, April 6, 1769. An active inquiring mind led him at an early age from his native country; and his talents, under the influence of a perſon he eſteemed and reſpected, were eaſily turned to natural hiſtory. His accuracy of diſcrimination, with regard not only to the appearance, but even the technical characters of plants, has not often been exceeded. His ardour kept pace with his abilities. After overcoming difficulties apparently inſurmountable at Sierra Leona with Mr Azelius, he attended the late profeſſor Sibthorp to Greece. The higheſt patronage awaited him in his own country, but he was anxious to deſerve rather than to obtain it, for he never by his own fault diſappointed any expectations that were formed of his head or his heart. At length Providence in its wiſdom diſpoſed of him otherwiſe, for he died by an accidental fall at Athens, on or about the 20th of October 1794.

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ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE OF LORD ABERCROMBY.

BY HENRY MACKENZIE, ESQ. F. R. S. EDIN.

From the Tranſactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Vol. III.

THE life, of which I am about to give ſome account to this Society, cannot be called a literary one; of literary lives only it is perhaps the proper buſineſs of the *Royal Society* to record the particulars; but it has been in the practice of allowing a wider range to this cuſtomary notice of its deceaſed members. Of the lives of ſuch as were eminent in ſtation or in uſefulneſs, in abilities or in virtue, it has been accuſtomed to hear a narrative, which, though not important to learning, is intereſting to humanity. Under this title, it will indulge me with a ſhort account of the life of LORD ABERCROMBY.

He was the youngeſt ſon of George Abercromby of Tullibody, a gentleman of a reſpectable family and conſiderable fortune in Stirlingſhire, and of Anne Dundas, daughter of Mr Dundas of Manor. He was born on the 15th day of October 1745. His father ſtill lives at the very advanced age of 91, and has had the ſingular good fortune to ſee two of his elder ſons, who were both bred ſoldiers, appointed Commanders in Chief of the Britiſh forces, one in the Weſt, and the other in the Eaſt Indies, the moſt important ſtations with which their country could entruſt them. His age indeed has, within theſe few months, been clouded by the death of him who is the ſubject of this paper; but it is ſomething for a father, it is ſomething for his friends, to mix their ſorrows with the general regret of his country.

His youngeſt ſon Alexander was early deſtined for the profeſſion of the law, to which his father had himſelf been bred, at a time when the *Faculty of Advocates* comprehended one half of the gentlemen of Scotland. At that period, commerce and manufactures had not attained, in this part of the kingdom, that extenſion and improvement which renders them objects of purſuit to men of birth or fortune. The ſword and the gown were here the only profeſſions ſuited for ſuch men; for our church did not, like thoſe of England and France, offer endowments conſiderable enough to attract the intereſted, or to enable the ambitious. In Scotland, however, the profeſſion of the law was adopted by the eldeſt ſons of the gentry, rather as conferring a ſort of faſhionable diſtinction, than as one for which they looked for buſineſs or emolument. It led to a learned, or at leaſt a polite education, and gave a ſort of dignity beyond the mere ſcience of a man of pleaſure. Hence, perhaps, there was in thoſe times an elegance of manners, joined with a degree of knowledge and information, among the *Faculty of Advocates* in Scotland, not to be met with among any ſimilar body of men in any other country. I mention this hiſtorically, becauſe it does not perhaps exactly ſubſiſt at preſent, from cauſes which may be held not to im-

prove the manners ſo much as, in a political and commercial view, they may be ſuppoſed to meliorate the ſituation of a country.

Mr Abercromby, with a view to the law, which his proſpects made it neceſſary for him to follow as a profeſſion, received the cuſtomary education at the Univerſity of Edinburgh. There the writer of this memoir firſt knew him. He had abilities which qualified him for being more a ſcholar, than the vivacity of his diſpoſition then allowed him to become. With uncommon beauty of countenance and pleaſantneſs of manner, the favourite of every relation and acquaintance, he did not then (as is common with young men ſo circumſtanced) apply to his ſtudies with the conſtant and unremitting aſſiduity which is calculated to attain deep learning. But he had a readineſs and acuteneſs that could eaſily perform his exerciſes when he wiſhed to perform them. After going through the ordinary courſe of claſſes at the Univerſity, conſiſting of the Latin and Greek languages, of Logic, Philoſophy, the Civil and Scots Law, he was admitted Advocate in the year 1766.

For ſome time after his coming to the bar, he retained ſomewhat of that gaiety of deportment and of conduct, which are not exactly ſuited to the dry and uninviting paths that conduct men to legal eminence. His manners and diſpoſition were better fitted for the leſs ſerious and more engaging ſociety of men of faſhion and pleaſure. During ſeveral years he lived a good deal in ſuch ſociety, and gave but little promiſe of that attention and application to buſineſs for which he was afterwards diſtinguiſhed. Though not unremittingly attentive, however, to his profeſſion, he was never neglectful of its duties; and when any particular cauſe was put into his hands, he gave very convincing proofs, both of his general talents, and of his power of application to buſineſs in detail.

But it was not long before he felt the propriety of ſecluding himſelf more than he had hitherto done from the ſcenes of conviviality and amuſement, which had interfered with a more ſerious and determined application to his profeſſion. He had lent to lighter ſociety a certain gaiety and ſportfulneſs of mind, which, in a character of leſs native vigour and ability, might have been fatal to the future proſpects of his life. But he poſſeſſed an intrinſic character, which it was not difficult for him to reſume; and from that pride and dignity of ſoul which he always maintained in an uncommon degree, he felt it unworthy of him not to make every effort for riſing into eminence in the profeſſion which he had choſen, from which, being a younger ſon, and not likely to be poſſeſſed of a large patrimony, he was to derive ſupport and independence.

An opportunity ſoon occurred of drawing the attention of the Court in which he practiſed, and indeed of the country at large, to the talents which he poſſeſſed, and to that exertion of them which he could command. He was counſel in a cauſe, which, from its peculiar circumſtances, had attracted much public curioſity, and divided for ſome time the public opinion. This was the caſe of Wilſon and Maclean, in which a particular fact (the period of the death of a ſhipmaſter, from whom a receipt was produced in bar of the plaintiff's claim, but which receipt was alleged to be a forgery) was involved in ſo much uncertainty, and that uncertainty ſtrengthened by the oppoſite depoſitions of ſuch a number of witneſſes, that it became a queſtion of uncommon notoriety and expectation, not only from the extraordinary circumſtances of that individual cauſe, but as involving a general legal conſequence of the incertitude of oral teſtimony in fixing the date of not very diſtant events. In this cauſe Mr Abercromby was employed for the purſuer or plaintiff, and made a ſpeech,

in

in oppoſition to one of equal ability from Mr Blair, now Solicitor-General, ſo conſpicuous for the cloſeneſs of its deduction, the force and clearneſs of its argument, the eloquence and impreſſive ſenſibility of its declamation, as to excite a very ſtrong ſenſation at the bar and in the public, and to mark him as an advocate from whom the moſt ſtrenuous and ſucceſsful exertions were to be expected. It is ſeldom that at the bar of Scotland, any appearance, however brilliant, has much effect in bringing a counſel into profeſſional celebrity or employment. From the conſtitution of the ſupreme civil court in this country, where trial by jury does not take place, and from the nature of its proceedings, which are chiefly carried on by written arguments, a ſpeech, however remarkable, is rarely followed by thoſe important conſequences to a barriſter's future buſineſs, of which there are daily inſtances in Weſtminſter Hall. But in this caſe Mr Abercromby's appearance made ſuch an impreſſion in his favour, as very ſoon to place him among the moſt riſing young men of the profeſſion. He took advantage of this circumſtance by a ſtep, of which the expediency was doubted by many of his friends at the time, but was afterwards allowed by them all. Soon after his being called to the bar, he had been appointed ſheriff-depute of Stirlingſhire, which he now (in 1780) reſigned for the leſs lucrative and more precarious ſituation of depute advocate, on the idea of the latter office being more beneficial in its conſequences, as not precluding him from buſineſs ariſing within the county of Stirling, where he had many connections both from relationſhip and acquaintance, but rather tending to advance his employment, from the opportunities it afforded him of appearing in public and criminal caſes. This appointment of depute-advocate he held under Mr Henry Dundas, then Lord Advocate for Scotland, in conjunction with Mr Blair, ſince his Majeſty's Solicitor, and Mr Craig, now a Judge in the Courts of Seſſion and Juſticiary. Thoſe two gentlemen and Mr Abercromby were as much connected in private friendſhip as in public buſineſs; a friendſhip to which one who has known them long and intimately, may be pardoned for aſcribing a conſiderable advantage towards the attainment of that profeſſional eminence, as well as of that general eſtimation and reſpectability which they have all enjoyed.

Mr Abercromby now roſe with great rapidity in his profeſſion, and was among the beſt employed barriſters of his ſtanding in Scotland. To this ſucceſs he was not more entitled by his talents than by his aſſiduity; and it was a peculiar merit in him, who had once indulged ſo much in gaiety and amuſement, and who was ſo much fitted by nature to ſhine among the gay and the amuſing, to devote himſelf now to buſineſs with a rigid attention and punctuality not always met with even among men of the moſt grave and ſerious diſpoſitions. His ſpeeches and his papers were held in equal eſtimation. His general method in both was, to ſtate the fact, which gave origin to the cauſe, ſimply and perſpicuouſly, and then to apply thoſe principles and arguments in law which bore upon the caſe, from which he drew the concluſion in favour of his client. When the caſe admitted of it, he was fond of illuſtrating his argument by ſome appoſite claſſical alluſion, or ſome anecdote of ancient or modern times, with which his memory was abundantly ſtored. His expreſſion was always elegant, and when the ſubject called for it, roſe to a degree of animation and eloquence much beyond what buſineſs-men might think neceſſary in a mere legal pleading. He excelled particularly in that indignant tone in which a good man rebukes injuſtice or oppreſſion, and that pathetic in which he pleads the

cauſe of the unfortunate; a ſtyle which his own mind, nice as it was in honour, and open to compaſſion, naturally prompted.

The laborious employments of his profeſſion did not ſo entirely engroſs him as to preclude his indulging in the elegant amuſements of polite literature. He was one of that ſociety of gentlemen, who, in 1777, ſet on foot the periodical paper, publiſhed at Edinburgh during that and the ſucceeding year, under the title of the Mirror, and who afterwards gave to the world another work of a ſimilar kind, the Lounger, publiſhed at Edinburgh in 1784 and 1786. To theſe publications he was a very valuable contributor, being the author of ten papers in the Mirror, and nine in the Lounger. His papers are diſtinguiſhed by an eaſy and gentlemanlike turn of expreſſion, by a delicate and poliſhed irony, by a ſtrain of manly, honourable, and virtuous ſentiment. In ſome of them we find that unaffected tenderneſs, of which I took notice above, as frequently diſtinguiſhing his profeſſional labours. One of thoſe papers I have often read ſince his death, with feelings which I believe to be ſo much in uniſon with thoſe of my preſent audience, that I hope I ſhall not be thought to treſpaſs on their time or patience, if I quote the concluſion now. In No 90. of the Mirror, he mentions as one of the calamities of extremely lengthened life, the loſs of friends, and gives a very natural and affecting account of his own feelings on an occaſion of that ſort. The picture contained in that paper is no *fancy drawing*; it is a portrait of one of the earlieſt and moſt excellent friends of Mr Abercromby, and of the writer of this memoir, Mr Gordon of Newhall, whoſe accompliſhments and whoſe virtues will not be forgotten by ſome members of this Society. Alas! I did not imagine, when I heard Mr Abercromby read that paper of the Mirror, that, in a few years, it ſhould be applicable to the loſs of its Author! If any of thoſe who now participate in this reflection, ſhould one day have occaſion to recal in this place the remembrance of him who reads the preſent account, may his memory be as dear to his friends, and as valuable to ſociety, as thoſe to whom his feeble words now endeavour to do juſtice!

"There is one circumſtance (ſays Mr Abercromby, in the paper I allude to) which with me is alone ſufficient to decide the queſtion (whether long life be an object much to be deſired). If there be any thing that can compenſate the unavoidable evils with which this life is attended, and the numberleſs calamities to which mankind are ſubject, it is the pleaſure ariſing from the ſociety of thoſe we love and eſteem. Friendſhip is the cordial of life. Without it, who would wiſh to exiſt an hour? But every one who arrives at extreme old age, muſt make his account with ſurviving the greater part, perhaps the whole, of his friends. He muſt ſee them fall from him by degrees, while he is left alone, ſingle and unſupported, like a leafleſs trunk, expoſed to every ſtorm, and ſhrinking from every blaſt.

"I have been led to theſe reflections by a loſs I lately ſuſtained in the ſudden and unlooked-for death of a friend, to whom, from my earlieſt youth, I had been attached by every tie of the moſt tender affection. Such was the confidence that ſubſiſted between us, that, in his boſom, I was wont to repoſe every thought of my mind, and every weakneſs of my heart. In framing him, nature ſeemed to have thrown together a variety of oppoſite qualities, which, happily tempering each other, formed one of the moſt engaging characters I have ever known. An elevation of mind, a manly firmneſs, a Caſtilian ſenſe of honour, accompanied with a bewitching ſweetneſs, proceeding from the moſt delicate attention to the ſituation and

and the feelings of others. In his manners ſimple and unaſſuming; in the company of ſtrangers modeſt to a degree of bafhfulneſs; yet poſſeſſing a fund of knowledge, and an extent of ability, which might have adorned the moſt exalted ſtation. But it was in the ſocial circle of his friends that he appeared to the higheſt advantage; there the native benignity of his ſoul diffuſed, as it were, a kindly influence on all around him, while his converſation never failed at once to amuſe and to inſtruct.

"Not many months ago I paid him a viſit at his ſeat in a remote part of the kingdom. I found him engaged in embelliſhing a place, of which I had often heard him talk with rapture, and the beauties of which I found his partiality had not exaggerated. He ſhewed me all the improvements he had made, and pointed out thoſe he meant to make. He told me all his ſchemes, and all his projects. And while I live, I muſt ever retain a warm remembrance of the pleaſure I then enjoyed in his ſociety.

"The day I meant to ſet out on my return, he was ſeized with a ſlight indiſpoſition, which he ſeemed to think ſomewhat ſerious: and, indeed, if he had a weakneſs, it conſiſted in rather too great anxiety with regard to his health. I remained with him till he thought himſelf almoſt perfectly recovered; and, in order to avoid the unpleaſant ceremony of taking leave, I reſolved to ſteal away early in the morning, before any of the family ſhould be aſtir. At day-break I got up, and let myſelf out. At the door I found an old and favourite dog of my friend's, who immediately came and fawned upon me. He walked with me through the park. At the gate he ſtopped, and looked up wiſhfully in my face; and, though I do not well know how to account for it, I felt, at that moment when I parted with the faithful animal, a degree of tenderneſs, joined with a melancholy ſo pleaſing, that I had no inclination to check it. In that frame of mind I walked on (for I had ordered my horſes to wait me at the firſt ſtage) till I reached the ſummit of a hill, which I knew commanded the laſt view I ſhould have of the habitation of my friend. I turned to look back on the delightful ſcene. As I looked, the idea of the owner came full into my mind; and, while I contemplated his many virtues and noble and amiable qualities, a ſuggeſtion aroſe, that he ſhould be cut off, what an irreparable loſs it would be to his family, to his friends, and to ſociety. In vain I endeavoured to combat this melancholy foreboding, by reflecting on the uncommon vigour of his conſtitution, and the fair proſpect it afforded of his enjoying many days. The impreſſion ſtill recurred, and it was ſome conſiderable time before I had ſtrength of mind ſufficient to conquer it.

"I had not been long at home when I received accounts of his being attacked by a violent diſtemper, and in a few days after I learned that it had put an end to his life.

"This blow, for a time, unmanned me quite. Even now, the chief conſolation I find is in the ſociety of a few choſen friends. Should they alſo be torn from me, the world would to me be as a deſert; and, though I ſhould ſtill endeavour to diſcharge my duty in that ſtation which Providence has aſſigned me in life, I ſhould never ceaſe to look forward, not without impatience, to thoſe peaceful manſions where the weary are at reſt, and where only we can hope to meet again with thoſe from whom we have been parted by the inexorable hand of death."

In 1792, when in this high and advancing ſituation at the bar, an offer was made to him of the appointment of Judge of the Court of Seſſion, in the room of Lord Rockville, deceaſed. This appointment he heſitated for a conſiderable time to accept, from an idea he had formed of the difficulty of

executing the office in that manner in which he conceived it ought to be executed, and of the laborious and fatiguing application and exertions of mind which its various duties required. He was at length prevailed on to accept of it, principally from the very handsome manner in which it was offered to his acceptance, and in compliance with the wishes of his friend Mr Secretary Dundas, who knew, from early and continued acquaintance, the value of that acquisition which he wished the Bench to make, in the appointment of Mr Abercromby to a Judge's seat. That appointment accordingly took place on the 30th of May 1792; and on the 14th of December following, he was called to a seat in the Court of Justiciary, on the vacancy occasioned by the death of Lord Hailes.

The manner in which he executed those very important offices, is fresh in the memory of every one. To the most assiduous and unremitting attention to his duty, and the most accurate consideration of the legal principles which were to determine his decision, he joined a talent for announcing that decision, and the grounds on which it rested, in such a manner as to give singular weight and dignity to his opinion, and to make the strongest impression on his audience. He did not speak often, but when he did, he never failed to throw light on the case before the Court. He never forgot (what is liable to be forgotten in a Court which, from the number of its judges, partakes somewhat of the nature of a popular assembly), that he was delivering the opinion of a judge, not arguing the cause of a barrister. He never replied to any of his brethren, remembering that a judge does not speak for victory: that it is his business to pronounce his own opinion, not to combat the opinions of others. He spoke shortly, seldom on the circumstances of the case in detail, but on some leading and prominent point on which the opinion he was to deliver was founded. His expression was clear and perspicuous, correct, at the same time, and elegant. His speaking was slow and deliberate, and in that cool and solemn manner which becomes a judicial opinion; yet, like his appearances at the bar, it did not fail in animation when it was directed to the censure of unfairness, to the detection of dishonesty, or to the rebuke of oppression. He was of particular use in the civil court, by an attention to the proceedings, and to the checking of any impropriety in the conduct of the business. On this ground, his own strict observance of propriety gave him great advantage. When he did censure, even when there was occasion for severity, it was with so much gravity and dignity of manner, and so much temperance of expression, as to ensure the approbation of the impartial, as to impress conviction, as well as to impose silence, on the censured. Lord Abercromby possessed those virtues and accomplishments which adorn the station of a judge with an authority the most venerable and the most persuasive. Purity of mind and of character, a nice sense of honour and decorum, a delicacy of private, and dignity of public deportment; these are at all times most important qualities in a judge; at no time, perhaps, so much as at the present, when they are so essential to conciliate the esteem and to command the reverence, of the people for the magistracy and constitution of their country.

To the Criminal Court those qualities are peculiarly appropriate. In that court, the judge is the organ of the offended majesty of the law; his deportment ought to be suited to that function, grave, deliberate, decided. Above the atmosphere of the passions, he may speak with severity, but never with resentment; and his duty is too solemn and too majestic, to admit of the light or the frivolous, either in manner or expression. Yet, amidst the

the unbending declaration of the law, and the ſteady deciſion of its miniſter, he may, and in ſome caſes ought to feel that dignified compaſſion for human frailty, that tempers the rigour, but does not detract from the awfulneſs of juſtice. Such was the deportment of Lord Abercromby. The firmneſs of his mind, and the dignity of his demeanour, were particularly called forth at that momentous juncture, when the deciſions of the criminal court of Scotland vindicated the laws, and upheld the conſtitution, againſt the daring attacks of tumult and ſedition.

The laſt piece of duty which Lord Abercromby performed as a Judge of Circuit, (immediately after the admiſſion of his friend Lord Craig as a colleague) was the northern circuit in the ſpring of the year 1795. On that journey he felt himſelf a good deal indiſpoſed, but returned to Edinburgh, reſtored, as he ſaid, to his uſual health, though his altered looks and appearance ſtrongly excited the apprehenſions of his friends. Thoſe apprehenſions were but too ſoon verified. He was attacked, in ſummer 1795, with a breaſt complaint, attended with ſpaſmodic ſymptoms, for which, after the uſe of palliative means, to which his diſorder never at all yielded, he was adviſed to try the milder climate of Exmouth in Devonſhire, a voyage to the Continent being, in the preſent ſituation of public affairs, difficult to accompliſh, and particularly diſagreeable to his inclinations. He was accompanied in this journey by his nephew, the eldeſt ſon of his brother Sir Ralph Abercromby, who watched the laſt days of his uncle with that tender aſſiduity which, though the world can neither ſee its merit nor feel its ſufferings, is one of the moſt important and moſt diſintereſted of all the domeſtic duties. On the road to Exmouth, he was ſeized with ſtill more violent ſymptoms than any his diſorder had hitherto exhibited; and though he experienced, during the ſpace of about two months, ſome temporary relief, he never gained any material advantage, and the diſeaſe made progreſſive advances, till at laſt it carried him off on the 17th day of November 1795. He bore its ſufferings with the greateſt patience and fortitude; and though for ſome time he entertained hopes which his phyſicians and friends ſaw to be but too ill founded, he met its concluſion with perfect compoſure and reſignation.

The diſorder which terminated ſo fatally, was perhaps only the effect of a gradually debilitated conſtitution, not of any determinate and immediate cauſe. Yet ſome of his friends, with an anxiety natural in ſuch a circumſtance, have traced it to various ſources. An accidental fall into the uninclоſed foundation of a houſe in the New Town of Edinburgh, was by ſome, I believe not on any medical authority, ſuppoſed to have produced the complaint in his breaſt. The anxiety and application he beſtowed on the duties of a very laborious profeſſion, might contribute to exhauſt the ſtrength of his conſtitution; and, if mental affections are to be allowed ſuch force, the uneaſineſs which for ſome years he experienced on the ſubject of public affairs and the political ſtate of his country, might impair and weaken his health and ſpirits. Deeply impreſſed himſelf with the excellence of the Britiſh conſtitution, and of the happineſs derived from it, he ſaw with horror and indignation (at a period conſiderably earlier than that which excited the apprehenſions of moſt other people) the efforts of deſperate and deſigning men to overturn it; he lamented the deluſion of thoſe who were miſled to join them; and he trembled for the effects of that deluſion in eſtimable and benevolent, but viſionary minds, who might indulge the pride of political theory and ſpeculation, to the danger, as he conceived, of all good order and regular gover-

vernment, of all ſocial happineſs and ſocial virtue.

Of the public virtues of Lord Abercromby, I have given a pretty full detail, becauſe thoſe ſpeak loudeſt in example, and are moſt generally uſeful to mankind. Of his private virtues and accompliſhments I might ſpeak in this Society on the teſtimony of many of its members, who will long remember the excellence of his diſpoſition, the worth and honour of his heart, the amiable and engaging manners which he exhibited. From birth, from education, from native ſentiment, and improved ſociety, he cultivated, and was never a moment unimpreſſed with the feelings of a gentleman, with that delicacy of mind, "above the fixed and ſcrupled rules" which poliſhes the manners, which refines morality, which dignifies virtue; of which ſuch an example is the more valuable in theſe days, when I am afraid a ſtyle of life and manners has become in ſome degree faſhionable, which deſtroys this honourable diſtinction; which degrades the higher ranks by vices and follies that uſed to be a reproach to the leaſt worthy among the lower; in which name and ſtation ſanctify groſſneſs in pleaſure and coarſeneſs in demeanour, and wealth ſhoots out into caprice and abſurdity, inſtead of expanding into generoſity and uſefulneſs.

The Society will pardon this digreſſion, which I confeſs to be unneceſſary, and to ſome may appear ungracious; they will forgive it to him who, looking from the tomb of his friend to the world he has left, with that gentler miſanthropy (if it ſhall be thought to merit that term) which is made up rather of regrets than of reſentments, naturally enough indulges in an aggravation of what he has loſt, and, it may be, in an unfavourable eſtimate of what remains for him to enjoy.

Independently, however, of the eſtimation of friendſhip, it may certainly be affirmed, that in the death of Lord Abercromby, ſociety has ſuſtained a loſs of no light nor common kind, a loſs which his friends and acquaintance will long and deeply lament; and which, without diſparagement to the virtues or the abilities of his ſurvivors, will not be eaſily repaired to the public.

ORIGINAL LETTERS OF THOMSON, THE POET.

In the Poſſeſſion of H. P. Wyndham, Eſq. M. P.

Paris, Dec. 27, N. S. 1730.

M. De Voltaire's Brutus has been acted here ſeven or eight times with applauſe, and ſtill continues to be acted. It is matter of amuſement to me to imagine what ideas an old republican, declaiming on liberty, muſt give the generality of a French audience. Voltaire, in his Preface, deſires to have a ſtroke at criticiſm; and Lord have mercy on the poor ſmiles at the end of the acts in our Engliſh plays, for theſe ſeem to be the very worthy objects of his French indignation. It is deſigned to be dedicated to Lord Bolingbroke.

I have ſeen little of Paris, yet ſome ſtreets and playhouſes; though, had I ſeen all that is to be ſeen here, you know it too well to need a much better account than I can give. You muſt, however, give me leave to obſerve, that amid all the external and ſhewy magnificence which the French affect, one miſſes that ſolid magnificence of trade and ſincere plenty which not only appears to be, but is, ſubſtantially, in a kingdom where induſtry and liberty mutually ſupport and inſpirit each other. That kingdom, I ſuppoſe, I need not mention, as it is, and ever will be, ſufficiently plain from the character. I ſhall return no worſe Engliſhman than I came away.

Your obſervation I find every day juſter and juſter, that one may profit more abroad by ſeeing than by hear-

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ing; and yet, there are ſcarce any travellers to be met with, who have given a landſcape of the countries through which they have travelled; that have ſeen (as you expreſs it) with the muſe's eye; though that is the firſt thing which ſtrikes me, and what all readers and travellers in the firſt place demand. It ſeems to me, that ſuch a poetical landſcape of countries, mixed with moral obſervations on their governments and people, would not be an ill judged undertaking. But then, the deſcription of the diff rent face of nature, in different countries, muſt be particularly marked and characteriſtic, the portrait painting of nature.

October 24, 1731.

What you obſerve concerning the purſuit of poetry (ſo far engaged in it as I am) is certainly juſt. Beſides, let him quit it who can, and *erit mihi magnus Apollo*, or ſomething as great. A true genius, like light, muſt be beaming forth, as a falſe one is an incurable diſeaſe. One would not, however, climb Parnaſſus, any more than your mortal hills, to fix for ever on the barren top. No; it is ſome little dear retirement in the vale below that gives the right reliſh to the proſpect; which, without that, is nothing but enchantment, and, though pleaſing for ſome time, at laſt leaves us in a deſert. The great fat doctor of Bath (Dr Cheyne, perhaps) told me that poets ſhould be kept poor, the more to animate their genius. This is like the cruel cuſtom of putting a bird's eyes out, that it may ſing the ſweeter; but ſurely they ſing ſweeteſt amid the luxuriant woods, while the full ſpring blooms around them.

Travelling has long been my fondeſt wiſh, for the very purpoſe you recommend. The ſtoring one's imagination with ideas of all beautiful, all great, and all-perfect nature: theſe are the true *Materia Poetica*, the light and colours, with which fancy kindles up her whole creation, paints a ſentiment, and even embodies an abſtracted thought. I long to ſee the fields where Virgil gathered his immortal honey, and tread the ſame ground where men have thought and acted ſo greatly.

But not to travel entirely like a poet, I reſolve not to neglect the more proſaic advantages of it. For it is no leſs my ambition to be capable of ſerving my country in an active than in a contemplative way.

At my time of leiſure abroad, I think of attempting another tragedy, and a ſtory more addreſſed to common paſſions than 'Sophoniſba.' The Sophoniſba of people now-a-days muſt have ſomething like themſelves, and a public ſpirited monſter can never intereſt them.

If any thing could make me capable of an epic performance, it would be your favourable opinion in thinking ſo. But (as you juſtly obſerve) that muſt be the work of years, and one muſt be in an epic ſituation to execute it. My heart both trembles with diffidence and burns with ardour at the thought. The ſtory of Timoleon is good as to the ſubject matter; but an author owes, I think, the ſcene of an epic action to his own country; beſides, Timoleon admits of no machinery, except that of the Heathen Gods, which will not do at this time of day. I hope hereafter to have the direction of your taſte in the affair, and in the mean time will endeavour to expand thoſe ideas and ſentiments, and in ſome degree to gather up that knowledge, which is neceſſary to ſuch an undertaking.

Should the ſcenes and climates through which I paſs inſpire me with any poetry, it will naturally have recourſe to you. But to him a return from Young, or Stubbs, were a kind of poetical ſimony, eſpecially when you yourſelf poſſeſs ſuch a portion of the ſpirit.

Rome,

Rome, November 28, 1731.

I will make no apology for neglecting to do myself the honour of writing to you since we left Paris. I may rather plead a merit in not troubling you with long scrawls of that travelling stuff, of which the world is full even to loathing——

That enthusiasm which I had upon me with regard to travelling, goes off, I find, very fast. One may imagine fine things in reading ancient authors; but to travel is to dissipate that vision. A great many antique statues (where several of the fair ideas of Greece are fixed for ever in marble) and the paintings of the first masters, are indeed most enchanting objects. How little, however, of these suffices! How unessential are they to life! They are surely not of that importance as to set the whole world, man, woman, and child, a-gadding. I should be sorry to be Goth enough not to think them highly ornamental in life, when one can have them at home, without paying for them at an extravagant price. But for every one who can support it to make a trade of running abroad only to stare at them, I cannot help thinking something worse than a public folly. Instead of travelling so furiously, it were wiser and more public-spirited, should they with part of these sums of money spent that way, find persons of genius in Architecture, Painting, and Sculpture, to study these arts abroad, and import them into England. Did they but once take root here, how they might flourish in such a generous and wealthy country! The *Nature* of the great painter, architect and statuary, is the same she ever was; and is, no doubt, as profuse of beauty, proportion, lovely forms, and real genius, as formerly she was to the sunny realms of Greece, did we but study the one and exert the other. In England, if we cannot reach the *gracefully superfluous*, yet I hope we shall never lose the substantial, necessary, and vital arts of life; such as depend on labour, liberty and all-commanding trade. For my part, I (who have no taste for smelling to an old musty stone) look upon these countries with an eye to poetry, in regard that the sisters reflect light and images to one another. Now I mention poetry, should you enquire after my muse, all that I can answer is that, I believe, she did not cross the channel with me. I know not whether your gardener at Eastbury has heard anything of her among the woods there; she has not thought fit to visit me, while I have been in this once poetic land; nor do I feel the least presage that she will. But not to lengthen out a letter that has no pretence to entertain you, give me leave only to add, that I can never lose the pleasing sense I have of your goodness to me: and it is a hope that I must flatter myself with, your continuance of it upon my return to England; for which my veneration and love (I will be vain enough to say) increase every day, even to fondness and devotion.'

PUBLIC VIRTUE.

THE Venetians used to be called Paper Faces by the Florentines, to denote their want of spirit and animation. The sagacious Montesquieu says of them, "Their hereditary Aristocracy will render the Government less violent; but as there will be found very little of virtue in it, it will fall into a state of indolence and indifference, which will leave the country, without energy and without effort."—"The want of public virtue," says Sir Richard Clayton, in his entertaining History of the House of Medici, "produced that torpidity respecting the public interest or safety, that it fell even without a struggle, on the first appearance of an enemy. *It is*," adds he, "*an awful warning, and ought not to be lost.*"

ACCOUNT OF SOME REMARKABLE FACTS, CUSTOMS, AND PRACTICES OF THE HINDOOS.

By Sir JOHN SHORE, Preſident of the Aſiatic Society, *Being the only paper which he preſented to that ſociety.*

IN the preliminary diſcourſe addreſſed to the Society, by our late preſident, *Man* and *Nature* were propoſed as the comprehenſive objects of our reſearches; and although I by no means think that advantage ſhould be taken of this extenſive propoſition, to record every trivial peculiarity of practices, habit, or thinking, which characterizes the natives of India, many ſingularities will be found among them which are equally calculated to gratify curioſity, and to attract the notice of the philoſopher and politician.

Of all ſtudies, that of the human mind is of the greateſt importance: and whether we trace it in its perfection or debaſement, we learn to avoid error, or obtain models for improvement, and examples for imitation. In purſuing cuſtoms and habits to the principles from which they are derived, we aſcertain, by the ſure rule of experience, the effects of natural or moral cauſes upon the human mind.

The characters of the natives of India, notwithſtanding all that has been publiſhed in Europe, are by no means well underſtood there; and a careful and accurate inveſtigation of them, with a due diſcrimination of habits and uſages, as local or general, would afford a ſubject for a curious, uſeful, and entertaining diſſertation.

It is not my intention to undertake it. I neither profeſs to have ability, nor have I leiſure for the taſk: and the preceding remarks are offered to the Society for the purpoſe only of introducing the recital of ſome extraordinary facts, cuſtoms, and practices of this country, which have occurred to my obſervation in the courſe of public duty. If the narrative has too much of the language of office, it may be deemed a ſufficient compenſation, that it is extracted from official documents, and judicial records, and hence has a claim to authenticity.

The inviolability of a brahmen (or prieſt) is a fixed principle of the Hindoos: and to deprive him of life, either by direct violence, or by cauſing his death in any mode, is a crime which admits of no expiation. To this principle may be traced the practice called *dherna*, which was formerly familiar at Benares, and may be tranſlated *caption* or *arreſt*. It is uſed by the brahmens in that city, to gain a point which cannot be accompliſhed by any other means, and the proceſs is as follows:

The brahmen, who adopts this expedient for the purpoſe mentioned, proceeds to the door or houſe of the perſon againſt whom it is directed, or wherever he may moſt conveniently intercept him: he there ſits down in dherna, with poiſon, or a poignard, or ſome other inſtrument of ſuicide in his hand, and threatening to uſe it if his adverſary ſhould attempt to moleſt or paſs him, he thus completely arreſts him. In this ſituation the brahmen faſts: and by the rigour of the etiquette, which is rarely infringed, the unfortunate object of his arreſt ought alſo to faſt: and thus they both remain until the inſtitutor of the dherna obtains ſatisfaction. In this, as he ſeldom makes the attempt without reſolution to perſevere, he rarely fails: for, if the party, thus arreſted, were to ſuffer the brahmen ſitting in dherna to periſh by hunger, the ſin would for ever lie heavy on his head. This practice has been leſs frequent of late years, ſince the inſtitution of the court of juſtice at Benares, in 1783: but the interference of that court, and even that of the preſident there, has occaſionally proved inſufficient to check it: as it has been deemed, in general,

moſt prudent to avoid for this purpoſe the uſe of coercion, from an apprehenſion that the firſt appearance of it might drive the ſitter in dherna to ſuicide. The diſcredit of the act would not only fall upon the officers of juſtice, but upon the government itſelf.

The practice of ſitting in dherna is not confined to male brahmens only. The following inſtance, which happened at Benares, in the year 1789, will, at once, prove and exemplify it:

Beeno Bhai, the widow of a man of the brahminical tribe, had a litigation with her brother-in-law, Balkiſhen, which was tried by arbitration; and the trial and ſentence were reviſed by the court of juſtice, at Benares, and again in appeal. The ſuit of Beenoo involved a claim of property, and a conſideration of *caſt* (or tribe) which her antagoniſt declared ſhe had forfeited. The deciſion was favourable to her, but not to the extent of her wiſhes: and ſhe reſolved, therefore, to procure by the expedient of the dherna, as above explained, what neither the award of arbitration, nor the judicial deciſion had granted.

In conformity to this reſolution, Beenoo ſat down in dherna on Balkiſhen; and he, after a perſeverance of ſeveral days, apprehenſive of her death, repaired with her to a Hindoo temple in Benares; where they both continued to faſt ſome time longer. Thirteen days had elapſed from the commencement of Balkiſhen's arreſt, when he yielded the conteſt, by entering into a conditional agreement with Beenoo, that if ſhe could eſtabliſh the validity of her caſt, and prevail on ſome creditable members of her own tribe to partake with her of an entertainment of her providing, he would not only defray the expence of it, but would alſo diſcharge her debts. The conditions were accepted by Beenoo, who fulfilled her part of the obligation: and her antagoniſt, without heſitation, defrayed the charges of the entertainment: but the non-performance of his engagement to diſcharge her debts, induced her to inſtitute a ſuit againſt him: and the practice of the dherna, with proofs of it, were thus brought forward to official notice.

It is not unworthy of remark, that ſome of the pundits, on being conſulted, admitted the validity of an obligation extorted by dherna, provided the object were to obtain a juſt cauſe, or right wickedly with-held by the other party, but not otherwiſe. Others again rejected the validity of an engagement ſo extorted, unleſs it ſhould be ſubſequently confirmed by the writer, either in whole or part, after the removal of the coercion upon him.

Of the practice which I have related, no inſtance exactly ſimilar has occurred to my knowledge in Bengal, or Benares, although brahmens, even in Calcutta, have been known to obtain charity or ſubſiſtence from Hindoos, by poſting themſelves before the doors of their houſes, under a declaration to remain there until their ſolicitations were granted. The moderation of the demand generally induces a compliance with it; which would be with-held if the requiſition were exceſſive. But I have been credibly informed that inſtances of this cuſtom occaſionally occur in ſome parts of the vizier's dominions, and that brahmens have been ſucceſsfully employed there to recover claims, by calling upon the debtor to pay them, with a notification that they would faſt until the diſcharge of the debt. The debtors, if poſſeſſed of property or credit, never fail to ſatisfy the demands againſt them.

Another practice, of a very ſingular and cruel nature, is called erecting a *koor*. This term is explained to mean a circular pile of wood, which is prepared ready for conflagration. Upon this, ſometimes a cow, and ſometimes an *old woman*, is placed by the conſtructors of the pile; and the whole is conſumed together. The object of this practice is to intimidate the officers of government, or others,

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from importunate demands, and the effect of this sacrifice is supposed to involve in great sin the person whose conduct forces the constructor of the koor to this expedient.

An instance of this practice occurred in a district of the province of Benares, in the year 1788. Three brahmens had erected a koor, upon which an old woman had suffered herself to be placed: the object of temporary intimidation was fully obtained by it, and the timely interposition of authority prevented the completion of the sacrifice. It cannot be uninteresting to know the cause which urged the three brahmens to this desperate and cruel resource. Their own explanation is summarily this: That they held lands in partnership with others, but that the public assessment was unequally imposed upon them: as their partners paid less, while they were charged with more than their due proportion; they therefore refused to discharge any part of the revenues whatever, and erected a koor to intimidate the government's officers from making any demands upon them. Their sole object, as they explicitly declared, was to obtain an equal distribution of the public assessment between themselves and their partners. A woman, nearly blind from age, had, in this instance, been placed upon the koor; she was summoned to appear before the English superintendant of the province, but absolutely refused to attend him: declaring that she would throw herself into the first well, rather than submit. The summons was not enforced.

This is the only instance of setting up a koor which had occurred for many years, previous to 1788, although the practice is said to have been frequent formerly. No information has reached me of the repetition of this practice in Benares, or of the existence of it in any other part of the Company's possessions: nor is it pretended that it was ever general throughout Benares, but is expressly asserted to have been limited to a very small portion of that extensive province.

This last-mentioned fact is very opposite to that humanity and mildness of disposition by which the author of the historical disquisition, regarding ancient and modern India, affirms the inhabitants of this country to have been distinguished in every age. As a general position, liable to particular exceptions, I am not authorized to dispute it: but it must at the same time be admitted, that individuals in India are often irritated by petty provocations to the commission of acts which no provocation can justify: and, without reference to the conduct of professed depredators, examples may be produced of enormities scarcely credible: the result of vindictive pride, and ungoverned violence of temper.

In support of these assertions, I shall quote three remarkable instances, attested by unquestionable evidence. In 1791, Soodhter Mier, a brahmen, the farmer of land paying revenue, and tenant of tax-free land in the province of Benares, was summoned to appear before a native officer, the deputy collector of the district where he resided. He positively refused to obey the summons, which was repeated without effect: and after some time, several people were deputed to enforce the process, by compelling his attendance. On their approaching his house, he cut off the head of his deceased son's widow and threw it out. His first intention was to destroy his own wife; but it was proved in evidence that, upon his indication of it, his son's widow requested him to decapitate her; which he instantly did.

In this case, the process against Soodhter was regular, his disobedience contemptuous; his situation in life entitled him to no particular exemption; he had nothing to appre-

hend from obeying the requiſition, and he was certain of redreſs if injury or injuſtice were practiſed on him.

Another brahmen, named Baloo Paundeh, in 1793, was convicted of the murder of his daughter. His own account of the tranſaction will beſt explain it, and his motives: I give it in abſtract. That, about twelve years before the period of the murder, he, Baloo, and another man, were joint tenants and cultivators of a ſpot of ground, when the partner of Baloo relinquiſhed his ſhare. In 1793, this partner again brought forward a claim to a ſhare in the ground: the claim was referred to arbitration, and a deciſion was pronounced in favour of Baloo. He conſequently repaired to the land, and was plowing it, when he was interrupted by his opponent. The words of Baloo, are as follows: 'I became angry, and enraged at his forbidding me, and bringing my own little daughter Apumunya, who was only a year and a half old, to the ſaid field, I killed her with my ſword.' This tranſaction alſo happened in the province of Benares.

The laſt inſtance is an act of matricide, perpetrated by Beechuk and Adher, two brahmens, and zemindars, or proprietors of landed eſtates, the extent of which did not exceed eight acres. The village in which they reſided was the property of many other zemindars. A diſpute, which originated in a competition for the general ſuperintendance of the revenues of the village, had long ſubſiſted between the two brothers, and a perſon named Gowry; and the officer of government, who had conferred this charge upon the latter, was intimidated into a revocation of it by the threats of the mother of Beechuk and Adher, to ſwallow poiſon, as well as to the tranſfer of the management of the two brahmens. By the ſame means of intimidation, he was deterred from inveſtigating the complaints of Gowry, which had been referred to his enquiry by his ſuperior authority.

But the immediate cauſe which inſtigated the brahmens to murder their mother, was an act of violence, ſaid to have been committed by the emiſſaries of Gowry, with or without his authority, and employed by him for a different purpoſe, in entering their houſe, during their abſence at night, and carrying off forty rupees, the property of Beechuk and Adher, from the apartments of their women.

Beechuk firſt returned to his houſe, where his mother, his wife, and his ſiſter-in-law, related what had happened. He immediately conducted his mother to an adjacent rivulet, where, being joined in the grey of the morning by his brother Adher, they called out aloud to the people of the village, that, although they would overlook the aſſault, as an act which could not be remedied, the forty rupees muſt be returned. To this exclamation, no anſwer was received; nor is there any certainty that it was even heard by any perſon; and Beechuk, without further heſitation, drew his ſcymetar, and at one ſtroke ſevered his mother's head from her body, with the profeſſed view, as entertained and avowed both by parent and ſon, that the mother's ſpirit excited by the beating of a large drum during forty days, might for ever haunt, torment, and purſue to death Gowry, and the others concerned with him. The laſt words which the mother pronounced were, that ſhe would blaſt the ſaid Gowry, and thoſe connected with him.

The violence aſſerted to have been committed by the emiſſaries of Gowry, in forcibly entering the female apartments of Beechuk and Adher, might be deemed an indignity of high provocation; but they appear to have conſidered this outrage as of leſs importance than the loſs of their money, which might and would have been recovered with due ſatisfaction, by application to the court of juſtice of Benares.

nares. The act which they perpetrated had no other sanction than what was derived from the local prejudices of the place where they resided: it was a crime against their religion: and the two brothers themselves quoted an instance of a brahmen, who six or seven years before had lost his cast, and all intercourse with the other brahmens, for an act of the same nature. But in truth Beechuk and Adher, although brahmens, had no knowledge or education suitable to the high distinction of their cast, of which they preserved the pride only; being as grossly ignorant and prejudiced as the meanest peasants in any part of the world. They seemed surprised when they heard the doom of forfeiture of cast pronounced against them by a learned pundit, and openly avowed that, so far from conceiving they had committed a barbarous crime, both they and their mother considered their act as a vindication of their honour, not liable to any religious penalty.

The Society will observe, with some surprise, that the perpetrators of the several acts which I have related, were brahmens. These facts took place within three districts only of the province of Benares; I mention these particulars, that I may not lead any person into a common error of deducing general conclusions from partial circumstances. In Bengal and Behar, where the passions of jealousy, pride, and revenge, sometimes produce very fatal consequences, I recollect no instance where the effects of their violence have been transferred from the objects which excited it to others that were innocent, as the two preceding cases.

(To be continued.)

ON THE GRANDEUR OF WINTER.

EVERY season is a source of delight to a good heart, and has a peculiar power of operating on its delicate sensibility. In my judgment, Spring has the most novelty, Summer the most beauty, Autumn the most variety, and Winter the most sublimity, of all the seasons.

The long dark nights, the heavy cloudy days, the increased action of the elements, the roaring of winds, the rushing of waters, together with the general gloom which now overspreads the creation, are all circumstances which naturally fill the soul with solemn, great, and awful ideas. Now the vast ocean, being impelled by stronger currents of air, swells into enormous billows, which succeed one another from an immeasurable distance, and dash with tremendous violence and noise against the rocky shore. Now the spacious lake is covered with a mighty mist, and larger volumes of vapour roll along the sides of the lofty mountain. Now the ample forest is deprived of its waving foliage, and the aged oak, like the venerable and vanquished hero of Lucan, stands in naked greatness, majestic in misfortune. But what, above all, determines the sublimity of this season, is the stupendous grandeur which now appears in the firmament. Much of this magnificence is lost to human perception in the other parts of the year, especially in Summer, when the splendor of the sun predominates in the northern hemisphere, and causes all the stars thereof to hide their diminished heads: but in a winter night, when the sky is serene, it bursts on the sight of astonished mortals in all its native extension, elevation, effulgence and glory. Now also the most august constellations are above our horizon, and the galaxy itself is a scene of immense amplitude and dignity.

Among the sublime appearances or operations of nature, which distinguish this particular period, I have always regarded the descent of snow; and a passage of the pious, philosophical,

and

and ſentimental ſon of Sirach has helped to confirm my feelings in that particular. In deſcanting on the works and power of the Deity, that ſagacious writer remarks: 'As birds flying he ſcattereth the ſnow, and the falling down thereof is as the lighting of graſhoppers; the eye marvelleth at the beauty of the whiteneſs thereof, and the heart is aſtoniſhed at the raining of it.' This noble deſcription is not leſs juſt, than it is concordant with the eaſtern ſtile, figurative, pictureſque and poetical. Admiration and aſtoniſhment are the offspring of the ſublime; and the ſublime in this inſtance ſeems to conſiſt in the multitude and diſperſion of the flakes of the congealed vapour, the conſtant ſucceſſion of them, and the diſorder and obſcurity in which they come down from the clouds. Suppoſing now, for the ſake of contraſt, ſome ordinary artiſt of verſe to treat of the ſame phenomenon, how would he deſcribe it? He would probably expatiate on the common conſequences of its action upon the woods, the mountains, the rocks, and the flocks, without once adverting to its principal effect, that which is by nature fitted to produce on the human mind; the eye marvelleth at the beauty of the whiteneſs thereof, and the heart is aſtoniſhed at the raining of it. Perhaps it will be inſinuated, that I have miſtaken the ſenſe of this paſſage, and that what I conſider as ſublime the author conſidered merely as beautiful; but the miſtake lies with the excepter; the colour of the object is indeed beautiful, the ſcene itſelf is magnificent.

But in thus contending for the grandeur of congealed vapour when falling in ſufficient quantities, as a pertinent and auxiliary illuſtration of the ſubject in hand, I do not mean however to aſcribe to it the ſame diſtinction after it is fallen. That power of exciting amazement, which belongs to it in motion, does not attach to it in reſt. It is then totally and indiſputably a beautiful or elegant ſubſtance. For it is the agitation and confuſion obſervable in its deſcent, the ſcattering and raining of it by the Omnipotent Being, or by the forces of nature that act under him, which gives to this meteor its proper ſublimity. Unleſs the object or ſpace which it covers over be themſelves ſublime, the mere circumſtance of inveſtiture by it will not render them ſuch. On the contrary, I am diſpoſed to imagine, that this circumſtance tends to diminiſh, rather than to augment the dignity of ſuch objects. A mountain is equally grand when it lifts its green head to the ſky, as when it ſtands in white raiment. If there be any exception to this doctrine, it ſeems to be in the appearance of the leafleſs wood, bending beneath its hoary burden. But then it is to be obſerved, that the additional grandeur given to an aſſemblage of trees after a fall of ſnow, does not proceed ſo much from the fallen matter itſelf, as from the dark maſſes of ſhade with which it is united, the indiſtinct perſpective of the interior parts, and the operoſe motion of the branches labouring under the enormous load, and leading the mind to the apprehenſion of mighty power and force employed in their depreſſion.—This ſeems to me ſufficiently to account for the difference in queſtion; but whether it will ſatisfy the underſtanding of my reader, is a point of which I cannot be equally certain.

It muſt not however be forgotten, or denied, that what may prove a ſource of enjoyment to the man of taſte in a warm apartment, may excite very different emotions in the poor man, who finds his labour interrupted and his wants increaſed by the ſtorm. The grandeur of Winter, in any view, or under any form, can but little obleciate him who is doomed to experience its rigours, to feel its gelid gripe and encounter its hardy blaſts. While the earth is covered with

with its mantle of ſnow, and the deſolating tempeſt howls over the hills, let me humbly remind the potent and the wealthy to be more than uſually bountiful. The ſeaſonable and judicious exerciſe, by the rich, of charity, that everlaſting grace, is not only neceſſary to the ſubſiſtence of the poor, but is one of the means deviſed by Providence for maintaining their otherwiſe oſcillatory virtue, and reconciling them to the wiſdom and equity of its diſpenſations.

To threats the ſtubborn ſinner oft is hard,
Wrapt in his crimes, againſt the ſtorm prepar'd;
But when the milder beams of mercy play,
He melts, and throws his cumbrous cloak away.

Did the numbers in Dryden in general poſſeſs equal merit with thoſe four excellent lines; had he been leſs deſultory, more attentive to juſtneſs of thought and regularity of meaſure, and more equal to himſelf in his many noble productions: he would then be as much commemorated for correctneſs and elegance, as he ever has been for energy, freedom and variety of verſification. Dryden was the morning ſtar of the eighteenth century, and, after Shakeſpeare and Milton, the greateſt poet that England has yet produced. Nevertheleſs, it was the misfortune of that eminent genius and refiner of his native tongue, to be obliged to write frequently from the inſtigations of haſte and hunger; whereby he was prevented from acquiring that exquiſite ſkill in the mechaniſm of verſe, which was afterwards attained by Pope and others who ſucceeded him in Engliſh poetry, and who ſurpaſſed him only in affluence and a laudable attention to critical rules.

Of Thomſon, the ſublime and elegant author of the Seaſons, it is related by one of his biographers, that he preferred Autumn for ſtudy and compoſition.——Without diſputing either the fact or the influence of the other ſeaſons on the human intellect and fancy, I cannot but conſider bleak rough Winter as peculiarly propitious to men of letters. Genius is thus kept glowing and elevated by the commotion of the elements, which may reaſonably be ſuppoſed to communicate ſomething of their own momentum to the current of thought and the tenor of expreſſion. The mind alſo, having now fewer attractions from without, can proſecute its reſearches with more intenſe application, than when its powers indolently repoſe, as it were, among the beauties of the blooming world. What is the reaſon that colleges, like the temple of Janus, are open in Winter, and ſhut in Summer, but becauſe the one ſeaſon is found to be more favourable to intellectual operations, and the other to be leſs favourable. Winter would ſeem to be beſt adapted for heroic compoſition, Spring for paſtoral, Summer for lyric, and Autumn for elegiac.

I come now to communicate to the reader a copy of verſes, by a favourite author, written in exact conformity with the principle of this eſſay, and conſequently requiring no ſeparate deſignation:

Hark, Winter is come, you may know by the roar
Of the wind in the wood, and the ſurge on the ſhore;
Short and ſharp is the day, weak and wan is the ſun,
And the ſtreams from the mountains with turbulence run.

Yet welcome to me is the ſeaſon of ſtorms,
That nature diſrobes of her beautiful forms;
While magnificent now are the ſcenes that appear,
And impreſs on the mind the ſublime of the year.

For the loſs of gay meadows I never ſhall ſigh,
In a clear froſty night when I look at the ſky;

Nor

Nor regret, when the torrents come down from the hill,
That the murmur I miſs of the ſoft ſummer rill.

The torrent, the tumult, the wild winter wind,
New energies raiſe in the vigorous mind;
New ſympathies wake in the generous heart,
And greater delight than calm ſeaſons impart.
While the winds whiſtle loud, and the rains rapid fall,
Let me walk in the rear of the weather-beaten wall,
Or behind the bleak mountain contemplative go,
When its ſheltering ſummit is ſprinkled with ſnow.

Thus Winter to me is the favourite time,
To enjoy in perfection the bold and ſublime:
Yet nature has beauties, of which we will ſing,
When the ſwallow returns, and the daiſy ſhall ſpring.

HYEMS.

THOUGHTS ON LAUGHTER.

A FEW nights ago my thoughts accidentally turned upon a ſubject, perhaps more familiar to mankind than any other, yet which has very ſeldom been conſidered with *ſeriouſneſs*, or treated by writers as deſerving of attention. I mean Laughter, and you will probably imagine, that in theſe times there are many ſubjects that would better become a wiſe man to meditate upon. As, however, it is one of the characteriſtics which diſtinguiſh us from the brute creation, and is in itſelf one of the moſt harmleſs recreations, it is certainly not unworthy the attention of philoſophers. Milton ſays,

'Smiles from *reaſon* flow,
To brute denied.'

It is a ſubject, therefore, to which importance may be annexed, if we conſider that however generally it is practiſed by all nations, and by all ages, ranks and conditions, thoſe who have reflected upon it as a ſubject of ſpeculation, are not agreed as to its origin. One author ſays, that laughter is the effect of joy, as tears are the effect of ſorrow; and that the forced or unvoluntary laugh is the effect of a mere mechanical operation, as a wound in the diaphragm, or muſcles which divide the middle from the lower part of the body. The ſame effect may alſo be produced by tickling. Another writer ſays the origin of all laughter is folly, becauſe we often laugh when we ought not; and a third, derives it from pride, vanity, or ſelf-love. It is plain, that in all theſe theories, there is ſome truth, but that none of them will account for all the ſpecies of laughter. The following appears to me to come neareſt the truth, or to embrace more generally the ſeveral caſes. 'Laughter ariſes from the view of two or more inconſiſtent, unſuitable, or incongruous parts or circumſtances, conſidered as united in one complex object or aſſemblage, or as acquiring a ſort of mutual relation from the peculiar manner in which the mind takes notice of them.'

Such are the opinions of philoſophers on this familiar ſubject, but it is not my intention to conſider theſe in themſelves or in their conſequences. There are more laughers than metaphyſicians in the world, and there are perhaps few things more dull than the theories of the latter upon all ſubjects. I cannot, however, paſs by the inſtance of the Abbe Damaſcene, who publiſhed in the year 1662, a treatiſe of about ſix ſheets, printed at Orleans, wherein he diſtinguiſhed the different temperaments, or, as we now call them, *conſtitutions* of mankind, by their different manner of laughing. The *hi, hi, hi*, according to this eſſay, diſtinguiſhes melancholic people; the *he, he, he*, phlegmatic perſons; and the *ho, ho, ho*, thoſe of a ſanguine

guine diſpoſition. This may ſerve as a ſpecimen of the ſkill that can be diſplayed by ingenious men upon all ſubjects, whether they wiſh to be believed or not.

I have been better pleaſed with a grave, anatomical deſcription of a loud laugh, or *horſe laugh*, in a French writer, which will probably ſurpriſe ſuch of my readers as indulge in that ſpecies of laugh, when their fancy is particularly tickled by a ridiculous object. They will ſcarcely believe that the human frame undergoes changes ſo very violent, by ſo trifling a circumſtance as a hearty laugh. Hear, then, my author:

"Upon examining the countenance, things appear in this manner. The forehead expands itſelf, the eye brows are depreſſed, the eye-lids narrow themſelves near the corners of the eyes, and all the neighbouring ſkin becomes wrinkled and unequal. The eye being thus compreſſed, and half ſhut, owes its luſtre to a forced-out moiſture with which it is diffuſed. Even thoſe perſons from whom grief could never extort tears, are compelled to ſhed ſome. The noſe is contracted, and terminated more or leſs in a point; the lips are drawn backward and lengthened; the teeth are diſplayed; the cheeks are elevated, and tending to overſtretch their muſcles, which, by the interficial hollows cauſed by the reſiſtance or retraction of their fibres, cauſe thoſe dimples ſo pleaſing in the cheeks of ſome, diſagreeable in thoſe of others unfavoured by nature.

"The mouth now obliged to be open, ſhews the tongue in a ſuſpended ſtate, and continually agitated by forcible vibrations. The voice is no longer articulate, and renders only broken ſounds, now loud and piercing, now low and plaintive. The neck ſwells and becomes ſhort, all the veins are full and diſtended; from the blood's being hurried in a tumultuous manner into the ſmalleſt veſſels of the epidermis or ſcarfskin, it ſpreads over the countenance the hue of a violet red, which is the neighbouring ſymptom of ſuffocation. Yet all theſe effects are moderate, when compared to the violent exertion felt in other parts. The breaſt is ſo vehemently actuated, as to labour under the greateſt difficulty, nay, of an almoſt impoſſibility of letting an articulate word be uttered; a violent pain is felt in the ſides; the bowels feel as if they were torn, and the ribs as if rent aſunder.

"During this outrageous criſis, the whole body is bent, twiſted in a manner, and as it were crumpled together; the hands throw themſelves upon the ſides, and there cloſely faſten: the face is ſoon dewed over with ſweat; the voice is converted into groans, and breathing into ſmothered ſighs.

"Sometimes the over violence of this agitation produces kindred effects to thoſe of a poiſonous drink, ſuch as boiling bones out of their joints, dreadful ſwoonings, and ſometimes death. While this kind of torture laſts, the head and ſhoulders undergo the ſame fatiguing emotions which the breaſt and ſides do. Their agitation is at firſt perceptible and irregular; then all on a ſudden, as if exhauſted of their vigour, they drop, nerveleſs, into quiet. The hands hang liſtleſs, the legs have no power to move, and the whole machine languiſheth as in a ſtate of inaction."

This deſcription will no doubt appear ſtrange to ſuperficial obſervers, but with a very little attention they may recollect having felt every one of theſe ſymptoms in themſelves, or having noted them in others. It is obvious that they muſt be greatly aggravated in perſons elated with wine, which generally produces the moſt violent fits of ungovernable laughter—a laughter which is diſproportioned to the cauſe of it, and which the party can no more ſuppreſs than he can ſuppreſs other extravagant effects of the exhilirating glaſs.

On laughter, I have firſt to obſerve, what perhaps will not appear very new, that we often laugh when we ought to be ſerious. Yet ſuch is the involuntary nature of laughter, and ſo eaſily and forcibly is it excited in ſome men, that they are not able to check the burſt, although their good ſenſe, almoſt a moment after, ſuggeſts to them the impropriety of it. Men who are themſelves witty, or poſſeſs a ſtrong ſenſe of ridicule, find great difficulty in ſuppreſſing a laugh at the moſt improper inſtances of wit. How often may we not recollect having been diverted with the blunders of deaf perſons, and with other imperfections in the conſtruction or ſhape of our fellow-creatures? It is not a very long time ſince deafneſs, ſurely a very great calamity, was held up to public ridicule on the ſtage, in a piece taken, indeed, from the French, but certainly received more favourably than is, I hope, conſiſtent with the humanity and good ſenſe of an Engliſh audience.

Certain accidents, too, have excited laughter, although the parties thus entertained were ſoon made to know that 'breaking limbs,' ought not to be 'ſport,' and that ſudden death, under whatever circumſtances, is no fit topic for merriment. Perſonal deformities are likewiſe too frequently the butt of ridicule. The Spectator mentions a wag who invited a company of perſons remarkable for the length of their chins. Such a company ſtaring at one another is undoubtedly highly ridiculous. A man muſt have wonderful command of his muſcles, who does not relax on ſuch an occaſion. Perhaps, too, this is one of the moſt harmleſs inſtances. Long chins and long noſes are but trifling deformities, and made leſs by contempt. For who that has a long noſe, does not thank heaven that there is ſome one who has a longer? But when the joke turns upon lameneſs, and the more ſhocking deformities of perſon, the man who indulges his laughter muſt have either a very weak head, or a very hard heart. He muſt be thoughtleſs, indeed, who does not aſk himſelf the important queſtion, 'Who makes me to differ?'

I would next obſerve of laughter, that however generally it is practiſed, we all ſeem to have a ſecret conſciouſneſs that it is not becoming. No man, except a theatrical buffoon, would wiſh to be painted *laughing*. It is remarkable of portraits, where even a ſmile is introduced, the falſe-nation ſoon ends, and the ſpectator, after looking at it ſome time, diſcovers a ſomewhat of folly in the face, which he diſlikes, juſt as we are apt to diſlike perſons, who have a conſtant ſmile on their faces. By long habit, it gives an appearance of weakneſs of underſtanding, becauſe, however agreeable on ſome occaſions, on others a ſmile muſt be very ill timed and injudicious, if not inſulting. What I have ſaid of our unwillingneſs to be drawn laughing, does not apply to drolls or buffoons, who would be out of character, if all that is ridiculous on the ſtage were not transferred to the canvaſs, yet even here I doubt whether a very wiſe man would chuſe to decorate his chamber with an aſſemblage of ſuch portraits.

It is particular to *laughing* that it is a ſocial quality. Alone, we are very ſeldom induced to laugh, although the ſame objects of ridicule are before us. We then have a command over ourſelves, which we loſe the moment we join in company with perſons of a ſimilar taſte or diſpoſition. Were it otherwiſe, men who have a ſtrong ſenſe of ridicule, could not walk along the ſtreets, without incurring the ſuſpicion of lunacy, from frequent fits of laughter; but this they ſuppreſs, until the firſt perſon they meet of their acquaintance affords them an opportunity of diſcharging the load, by imparting the circumſtances which provoked their ridicule. I have ſometimes

times thought that the faculty of laughter, and the superior inclination we have to employ it with others, is a proof that nature intended man for a social and a happy being, but the perversion of our passions too frequently, as well as fatally, counteracts the benevolent design.

Lastly, for I must not intrude, Mr Editor, too much on your room, I have to remark that, in my humble opinion, writers on this subject have confounded two things together which are not connected, nor arise from the same cause, I mean, the *smile* and the *laugh*. From whatever cause, moral or physical, we derive the origin of laughter, or however we may define, describe, or analyse it, it is obvious that it is in all cases an involuntary exertion of our sense of ridicule, which we cannot suppress, even where necessary, without some degree of pain. It is therefore not in our command; for a forced or assumed laugh is a mimickry so obvious, that very superficial observers only can be deceived by it. The very reverse is the case with the smile, which is altogether a voluntary act, and perfectly at our command. Its uses are various, as I hope to be able to show, when, in my next, I come to the various kinds of smiles and laughter; but in no case can it be said, that we are not perfectly at liberty to exhibit, or restrain it. If considered as the first stage of laughter, the case may be thought somewhat different, but this is seldom the case, unless where a man finds in a situation it would be improper to laugh, as at church, but here I consider that there is a constraint, or that the solemn circumstances around, lessen the provocation. But *laughter* is instantaneous, and if preceded by a smile, the latter would perhaps resemble the flash of a cannon, which is scarcely observed when the report is heard, although a certain portion of time undoubtedly intervenes.

It may be said, again, that while some *laugh* at what is ridiculous, others only *smile*. The latter, I am convinced, do that from more complacency. They are unwilling to deprive the man of wit of his tribute, but they do not enter into the spirit of his ridicule, and, but for good manners, would not relax from their accustomed gravity of feature. In my next letter, I mean to enter upon the various species of *smiles* and *laughter*, and to distinguish their uses to various persons, and upon various occasions. The former is all *art*, the latter all *nature*. Unquestionably, nature and art may assist each other, and their works when blended afford perhaps the highest satisfaction, yet this mixture is so little understood, and requires so high a degree of refinement, that we seldom meet with attempts that are successful. It is safest, therefore, in most cases, to keep them apart, allowing to each its respective merits.

In troubling you, Mr Editor, with these miscellaneous remarks on laughter, I am aware that I may give offence to the disciples of the polite Lord Froth, who says, that 'there is not any thing more unbecoming a person of quality than to laugh; it is such a vulgar thing; every body can laugh. Then especially to laugh at the jest of an inferior person, or when any body else of the same quality does not laugh with one!'—And of Lord Chesterfield, the legitimate successor of Congreve's Double Dealer—yet I hope that 'nature will prevail,' and that a faculty so conducive to the pleasures of society, will neither be suppressed by such authorities, nor rendered unseasonable by the vicissitudes of public affairs.

I am, Sir, &c.

DEMOCRITUS JUNIOR.

ON MAN AND HIS PURSUITS.

Who finds not Providence all good and wife,
Alike in what it gives, and what denies? *Pope.*

FROM the moment in which the eye opens on the light of heaven, to that in which it clofes in death, the univerfal aim is to feek felicity: to enjoy and procure which, every paffion and perception, every faculty and fenfe, every corporal and moral power, is attuned to their higheft tone of activity and exertion. Yet it is amazing to obferve, that every man varies in the purfuit, though feeking a fimilar enjoyment, and endowed with the fame capacities. It appears then to me very plainly, that every man has an object or bufs fuited to his frame of mind, and congenial to his complexion; and which, in fome particular, differs from the favourite object of another. I am almoft bold enough to extend this remark over the natural world alfo; for it is furely not incongruous or romantic to fuppofe, that every atom on the fcale of life forms to itfelf fome peculiar fenfation of its peculiar happinefs, agreeable to the force of inftinct, and its comprehenfion; and we may with the fame propriety conjecture, that thofe favourite fenfations eſſentially differ from thofe of any other reptile or infect in the fame rank of exiftence. The leaft conſideration will convince us, how neceffary it is that it fhould be thus ordered: for to what other end or purpofe could he who prepareth all things fo luxuriantly, bellow, even upon his loweft order of fubjects, fuch fingular powers of chufing and rejecting, of preferring and avoiding?

Are it happinefs admits fuch endlefs diverfity, and fuch variety of modification, it will be found to derive all its fpirit, and all its exquifite poignancy of pleafure, from that power who has fo furprifingly accommodated every particular being with particular faculties, to enjoy what is amiable, to repel diſaſter, and to feek fecurity.

Our moſt eſteemed and eloquent writers on the fubject of defcribe it to be a fituation of internal content, an health of body and of mind, an heaven of foul, and an harmony of heart; others, in wrong and in like fuppofe its conſtituent principles are dignity of rank and beauty of form; fplendor of parts, or fublimity of thought; keennefs of intellect, or vacuity of ignorance; popular praife, or obfcure abſtraction. This imagines it to glitter in the gaieties of a Court: and that, to repofe beneath the fhade. The Novelift places this bleffing in the fofter affections of two tender hearts; the Bard declares us, in a language ſtill more perſuaſive, that it is to be found gliding in the dimples of the ſtream, and blooming in the boſoms of the flower; glowing in the funbeam, and warbling the note of nature among the branches!—While the Man of Virtu declares, it is incraſſated with the ruſt of the venerable Medal. The Sage, who hangs intent over the page of antiquity, and he who ſits watching the midnight progreſs of the ſtars, ſmiles at ſuch idle unphiloſophic gratifications, and pronounces, with ſupreme folly, that nothing is either fit or happy beneath the ſpheres. On the other hand, the witty and the frolick ſome break out into burſts of ridicule at their dignified ſtupidity, and, equally miſtaken, though equally confident, ſhow, that the ultimatum of life is enterpriſe, women, and wine.

Of Happineſs, ſuch have been, ſtill are, and ever will be, the general opinions. This ſubject, amongſt authors (like moſt others), has been carried too far; for the infinite variety of treatiſes upon it, are each contradictory to the other, the ſentiments of one writer claſhing with the maxims of another, and the perplexities of one involved in the ſubtleties of another.

In a ſubject at once ſo ſimple, yet

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ſo important, it is not neceſſary to run into metaphyſic pomp of ſtyle or pedantic parade; what Happineſs is, and what it is not, every one is told by every ſenſe and principle within him. Happineſs, like wit, may be divided into that which is fantaſtical and that which is real; or, like gold, into the ſterling and the counterfeit. Much of what the world contents to dignify with the proud title of felicity is the mere luxury of imagination, and, ſtill more, is the abſurdity of folly. I think we may arrange under theſe heads the pride of anceſtry and the force of grandeur, the oppreſſions of faſhion, and the inſolence of birth.

There is alſo another ſpecies of falſe Happineſs, which is moſt incidental to the youthful, I mean their attaching a too ready credit to the romantic deſcriptions of rural ſimplicity, and the extatic eulogiums of a buſtling as country life; a life (as they are told), into the calm of which no paſſion ſhall ever obtrude, nor diſaſter any time diſtreſs: but on which the ſmile of health and nature are ever in bloom, and where the verdure of unfading ſpring ſhall freſhen on the eye for ever. This is the poetical picture of an actual enthuſiaſt. Thoſe who have been ſome ſeaſons reſident in the country, though they have produced and many things to admire, have found at leaſt an equal number which have excited their diſguſt. The ruſticity of the cloven, and the little ſcandal that circulates through the parſh in an hour, counterbalances the pleaſure or the profit we receive from the ſweetneſs of the violet and the ſalubrity of the air.

Let us expect from a ſituation no more than it naturally has to beſtow; for to form an unreaſonable expectation of any thing is voluntarily to abſorb our ſenſes in a dream of viſionary enjoyment, and which will arouſe us to a more ſenſible conviction of the anguiſh of diſappointment when we awake.

It is undoubtedly true that mankind would be leſs unhappy if they would conſtantly remember that they are only beings placed in a world, which (like themſelves) is in continual decay; and the univerſal flux of human things is ſufficient to inform us, that every ſtate muſt inevitably feel the miſeries inflicted upon its nature, and pay down a proportionate tax to the laws of mortality. To the account of fictitious Happineſs I ſhall not heſitate to place alſo the rage of conqueſt, in gallantry, and in war, the ardour of oppoſition, for the ſake of generous triumph; with the phrenzy of appetite: and likewiſe the contraſted enjoyments of avarice and prodigality. Of all the deluſions to which the ſoul is led in its purſuit of pleaſure, however, the gratifications of revenge are at once the moſt diſtinguiſhed and unmanly. The ſatisfactions of a ſanguine mind are indeed dreadful! and a good one cannot eaſily conceive any wickedneſs ſo diabolical as ſhould incline a man to rejoice at the deſtruction or diſſolution of another.

In reſpect of Happineſs, none evince a greater contrariety of opinion concerning it, than thoſe who are juſt entering into life, and thoſe who are juſt retiring from it. There are indeed few things in which the ſentiments of the young and the old agree: from which diſſimilarity ariſes the general animoſities between them. In age the ultimatum is gain, if not avarice; in youth it is liberality, if not profuſion: an old man is tenacious of every thing, and when the leaſt capable of enjoying any part, graſps the globe in his wiſhes: he has a ſatisfaction in the moſt trifling poſſeſſions, not becauſe they are uſeful, but becauſe they are ſo much added to the main ſtock: Though his organs are dim, and his taſte diſreliſhing, even of delicacies, yet he ſeems to feel freſh vigour, and his blood to thaw, as he recounts, with tedious exactneſs

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his frolicks while yet a boy, and his atchievements in manhood. Remembrance and narration are the crutches of age, as they certainly conſtitute the chief pleaſures of feneſcence; but we cannot afford a more complete or complimentary enjoyment to him whom time has made venerable, than by leading the converſation into ſuch a channel as may give him an opportunity to recount the wonders of his youth, and the miraculous times in which he lived, while you politely liſten to the prolixities of his tale.

The young man, on the contrary, neglecting the paſt, in the morning of his days, full of ardour and ſpirit, preſſes on to the future, animated with hope, and puſhed forwards by curioſity. He derives little conſolation from what is gone before, but from what is to come, and is therefore impatient to ſtart into action. His ſoul is all activity, and his body all vigour. He pants with expectation, and begins his career with intrepidity and aſſurance: he goes on with perſeverance; he is neither deterred by danger, nor depreſſed by diſappointment; health of heart, ſtrength of conſtitution, and vivacity of buoyant ſpirits, aid him to combat and to conquer the ſtubbornneſs of nature; and a powerful, irreſiſtible deſire of diſtinction and knowledge, with a ſtrong love of novelty, enables him to familiarize difficulty encounter peril, and defy alarm. In his progreſs through life the ſtripling ſees fit objects to excite and to engage every paſſion, and every paſſion has, by turns, its portion of enjoyment. He commonly finds that the pliability of his nature inclines him to give a firſt attention to the impreſſions of love; and the hero ſoon reſigns his affections and his heart to beauty and to virtue; and then it is his principal vigilance to evince the rectitude of his honour and the penetration of his parts; and in a ſhort time his entire faculties of mind and perſon are dedicated to the moſt elegant of all human paſſions. When he yields up his ſoul to the enchantments of female excellence, he becomes ſolicitous to form friendſhips, and contract regards, upon the ſame principles with his love: at length he attains the ſoft conſent of the maid whom his addreſs and character has ſubdued. The ceremony is paſt, and he becomes, about the noon of his being, a ſtationary character. He remits then of his curioſity, and becomes leſs ſolicitous to examine life, but more ſo to enjoy it. His reflections, hopes, and aims, have hitherto been deſultory, fugitive, and diffuſe; but at length marriage has turned the tide; he collects his ideas, calls home his thoughts, marſhalls his powers, and reduces that knowledge, which he has gained by a public commerce with mankind, to the practical utility of private life. The thirſt of glory and applauſe now gives way to domeſtic cares; a tender partner and a riſing offſpring inſpire the moſt ſerious and pleaſing ſolicitude, and his higheſt and beſt ambition is now, in what manner to educate his children, and ſtation them to advantage in the world.

To the vigilance and aſſiduity of the huſband, and the anxious tenderneſs of the parent, ſucceeds the love of eaſe, and a wiſh to retire from the obtruſions of the world. This is the evening of his life, and the declining man ſoon longs earneſtly for a retreat, which may repel the attacks of folly and vexation: and ſolitude has now all the charms, in which fancy (in a gayer ſeaſon) arrayed ſociety.

Thus have I endeavoured to follow a fellow-creature from the dawn of infancy to the verge of death, and thereby to ſhew, that though each ſtage of life enjoys its peculiar comforts; and our opinions of felicity vary in proportion as our years increaſe, till the curtain of exiſtence falls, and we can change no more.

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From what has been ſaid it is obvious, that complete happineſs is not to be found here. This world is not able to fill the deſires of the ſoul. But to a certain degree it may be attained, and a mind ſuited for receiving happineſs from the objects fitted to inſpire it, will conſult the book of nature and the book of life.

The works of our Maker are to be read in every ray of the ſun, in every bloſſom of the tree, and in every flower of the field. In his ample pages are compoſed a ſyſtem of dignified benevolence, that at once pleaſes and inſpires: we ſhall there perceive an operating Providence, induſtrious for the well-being of its creatures: we ſhall obſerve its care, beginning at the utmoſt length of the line, in animalcula; thence gradually aſcending to beings of greater conſequence, till it ends with Man, that grand link in the chain of created nature.

He who reflects on ſuch illimitable mercy cannot forbear to proſtrate, in humble adoration, his paſſions and his powers. He who caſts an eye of enquiry around him, will find felicity courting his acceptance. Life is pregnant with the ſeeds of bliſs; and (various as are the capacities of the ſoul and ſenſes) there are ſufficient objects to gratify them all, nor need any man be entirely miſerable, but by his own fault.

OBSERVATOR.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF ALL THE REBELLIONS OF IRELAND.

WE do not mean in this ſketch to give an account of all the hoſtilities which paſſed between the powerful Septs of that Nation and the Britiſh Colonies ſettled there from the firſt conqueſt of Ireland. They are too numerous, and would be too unimportant to the preſent deſign: we ſhall therefore begin with the Rebellion of Thomas Fitzgerald Lord Offaley, eldeſt ſon and heir of the Earl of Kildare, in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

That Nobleman, being then Chief Governor of Ireland under the King, broke out into an open rebellion, renounced his allegiance to the King, and ſet himſelf up as an independent Prince. After ſeveral conflicts, he and his adherents were reduced; himſelf, with five of his uncles, were taken priſoners, ſent into England, and there were hanged and quartered as traitors, at Tyburn. The Earl his father died of grief as a priſoner in the Tower of London, and the whole family eſtate was confiſcated. Thus the illuſtrious race of the Fitzgeralds would have been for ever extinguiſhed, had not Queen Mary, out of compaſſion to the fortunes of that Houſe, afterwards reſtored the only ſhoot which remained of this ancient trunk to the family honours and eſtate.

In the reign of Queen Eliſabeth, the Earl of Deſmond, a Nobleman originally of Engliſh blood, and whoſe dominions extended almoſt all over Munſter, entered into a league with the then powerful Monarchy of Spain, for *ſevering Ireland from England*, and rendering it *independent*. He was joined by almoſt the whole Iriſh nation, then bigotted Roman Catholics (the few Engliſh colonies attached to the Queen being of the ſame perſuaſion), and was ſupported by the Spaniards with great ſupplies of troops and military ſtores: yet the ſuperior power of England ſoon cruſhed him and his adherents, and his head was ſtuck up as the head of a traitor on London Bridge.

The Earl of Tyrone, an able Iriſh Chieftain, both as to courage, influence, and ability, and who had been trained in arms under Eliſabeth herſelf, next raiſed a rebellion in Ireland, on the ſame ground of *independence*

pendence and ſeparation from England. He was alſo aſſiſted by Spain, who, beſide other ſupplies, ſent him ſix thouſand Spaniſh infantry, famous for their ſuperior diſcipline over all other Europeans. He was joined by the whole body of what was then called the *Iriſh* nation; that is to ſay, the Iriſh Catholics, who were forty to one in number over the Engliſh colonies: yet he and his followers were in a few campaigns completely ſubdued and conquered by the power of England; and the conſequences of this rebellion and ſuppreſſion were—the ſlaughter, or diſperſion into foreign countries, of all the Iriſh Chieftains who ſerved under him, and of the greater part of the inhabitants of ſix whole counties in the northern parts of Ireland.

The calamities brought upon the Iriſh Romaniſts by this unſucceſsful rebellion (ſays Morriſon and other cotemporary writers) can only be equalled by thoſe of the Jews, at the time of the deſtruction of Jeruſalem by the Romans.

The next rebellion in the *cauſe of ſeparation from England* was that which commenced in the year 1641. The Iriſh Romaniſts at that time, encouraged by the diſtracted ſtate of affairs in England, and abetted by the Republicans of this country (as in part they have been on a late occaſion), broke out into an open rebellion for the purpoſes of ſeparation and independence. The Iriſh Romaniſts, at the breaking out of this rebellion, were, according to Sir William Petty, *five and a half to one* in compariſon to the Iriſh Proteſtants, and we are told by the ſame author, that they murdered *thirty-ſeven thouſand Proteſtants*, in the firſt year of this rebellion, in cold blood. The Engliſh army in Ireland did not amount at that time to *four thouſand men*, ill paid, and ill clothed, and the Iriſh Romaniſts ſuddenly poſſeſſed themſelves of nine-tenth parts of the kingdom. As ſoon, however, as their *ſecret* abettors (the Engliſh Republicans) had done their own buſineſs here, they would not ſuffer Ireland to remain in an independent ſtate: they ſent over Cromwell with a powerful army to reduce their Iriſh aſſociates in rebellion and murder; and he, in two ſhort campaigns, effected a complete conqueſt of Ireland, by putting the two firſt garriſon towns, which reſiſted, to the ſword, and a threat of ſerving the whole of the country, under ſimilar circumſtances, in the ſame manner.

Of the leaders executed upon this occaſion, we ſhall only mention two of eminent turpitude: Lord Maguire, hanged and quartered at Tyburn, and his head fixed on London Bridge; and Sir Phelim O'Neile, hanged and quartered at Stephen's Green, and his head fixed on Newgate, in Dublin. They confiſcated all their eſtates, and beſtowed them upon the Engliſh ſoldiers; and finally, Cromwell united Ireland to England, cauſing thirty Members to ſit as Repreſentatives of Ireland in the Britiſh Parliament.

The next rebellion of the Iriſh Romaniſts againſt the Crown of England was that which commenced in the reign of King William and Queen Mary. At this period the Romaniſts, by the agency of Lord Tyrconnel (appointed Lord Lieutenant of the Kingdom by James the Second), were in poſſeſſion of almoſt all employments of truſt and conſequence in the nation. Many of the Iriſh Nobility and Gentry of the day were Romaniſts, and many of the Iriſh as well as Engliſh Proteſtants were diſaffected to the revolution and government of King William. The Iriſh Romaniſts, almoſt to a man, eſpouſed the cauſe of the abdicated Monarch, partly out of affection to him, but principally with the hopes of *obtaining independence*. The event of that rebellion is too

well known to need a very particular recital here: it is sufficient to say, that a small body of Irish Protestants, only in the northern parts of that kingdom, boldly took up arms to stem this torrent; but they would have been soon swallowed up, had not they received speedy and ample succours from England, which in three campaigns (the first headed by the King himself) made a complete conquest over the Irish rebels and their French auxiliaries, and drove such as escaped the sword as miserable exiles into foreign countries.

That the great principle of this rebellion was the shaking off the dependence of Ireland on England, may be collected from two circumstances little noticed from the historians of those times. The first was, when James the Second assembled what he called a Parliament in Dublin: one of the first measures of this Parliament was the preparation of a Bill, declaring "the independence of the Kingdom of Ireland on the Crown of England." When this Bill was tendered to James, for the royal assent, he hesitated: he had still hopes of remounting the throne of England, and he feared that his assenting to such a Bill would disgust and alienate his English friends, and impair his own authority; but that Parliament told him plainly, "That if he refused his assent to the Bill, they had no further occasion for him; that he might go about his business, and that they would establish a government without him."

The other was—This same pretended Parliament attainted by Bill several thousand Irish Protestants, including in the lump all men of that persuasion, of rank, consequence, or property; and passed another, for depriving the Protestant Clergy of almost the whole of their tithes, and for rendering the recovery of the remainder impracticable.

The late rebellion was, by the *attested* promulgation of the evidence of those principally concerned in that rebellion, evidently entered into *for the purpose of separation, and throwing off all connection with England*; and not, as has been clamorously and obstinately asserted by the Heads of Opposition in that country, and here, *for Reform and Catholic Emancipation*. We trust and hope, that the latter meant no more than what they said in their reiterated and turbulent harangues; but when the mass of the people have a list of *supposed* grievances and oppressions stated to them in strong energetic language, and are then told, "That they are by no means to postpone the consideration of their fortunes *till after the war*, that they should *now* be free, and *now* greatly emancipate*," we do not wonder at their setting up a *physical force* against the *laws and constitution of their country*. It is in vain for these popular orators and writers to explain themselves by saying "they meant no such consequences." They ought previously to have had prudence enough to know, that such consequences were likely to result from such speeches; and that when once a fire is begun, there is no telling where the conflagration will end.

* See Mr Grattan's Answer to the Address of the Romish Assembly at Francis-street Chapel, on Earl Fitzwilliam's recal.

ON THE RECOVERY OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

IT is a question still undetermined by practitioners who have employed the Resuscitative art, how far it is proper to exhibit an emetic in cases of suspended action of the vital principal from drowning. I own myself that I am much prejudiced in favour of this practice, not because I have been so fortunate myself as to restore life, in a case, where my first attention was directed towards rousing the powers of the stomach by exciting vomiting; but for

for the moſt obvious reaſons, which I ſhall preſently explain.

The Royal Humane Society did me the honour of preſenting me with a medal, at their laſt annual court of directors, for a ſucceſsful and extraordinary caſe. In the directions publiſhed by the Society for the recovery of drowned perſons, we are ſtrictly forbidden the practice of giving vomits, becauſe it is known that emetics ſuddenly weaken the powers of life, as is manifeſt from the ſickneſs, feebleneſs of pulſe, and general debility which conſtantly accompany their operation. Theſe effects the learned Doctor Fothergill obſerves in his "*New Inquiry into the Suſpenſion of Vital action*," probably overbalance any advantage that otherwiſe might accrue from the general concuſſion. Emetics therefore he adds, "but ill ſuit with the intention of reſtoring animation." I ſhall juſt relate the caſe before alluded to, and make ſuch obſervations as the nature of *that* caſe ſuggeſts. Ann Bleake aged 13 years, attempted to deſtroy herſelf by drowning in a tub of water. She had remained in the water above a quarter of an hour, and juſt as ſhe was taken out, I came to her aſſiſtance. She was to all appearance dead: there was no pulſation either in the temporal artery, or at the wriſt; her body was cold and motionleſs, and her face livid. After having the body well rubbed, and volatiles applied to the wriſts, temples, breaſt, &c. it occured to me, knowing from experiments that the ſtomach retained the vital principle long after it has ceaſed in all other parts of the ſyſtem, that the intentions ſhould be directed towards calling it into action: accordingly I gave her by ſpoonfulls a ſolution of the oxyd of zinc in water, which with difficulty I got down the throat, owing to a ſtrong contraction of the epiglottis. In about ten minutes the body became convulſed, a large quantity of water was ejected from the ſtomach; the muſcles of the jaw which before were rigid, now became relaxed, and the heart pulſated; and the lungs were inflated, and when ſhe could ſwallow, a cordial volatile draught was given her. By the next morning ſhe was quite recovered.

If we conſider the general ſhock which emetics give to the ſyſtem, and the great probability there is of immediately ſtimulating the heart by the diſengagement of the oxygen-gas in the ſtomach, I think we are fully warranted in having recourſe to ſuch powerful aids. I will grant in caſes of congeſtions in the blood veſſels of the brain, by the imprudent adminiſtration of vomits, there are ſome inſtances recorded, where their uſe, in caſes of ſuſpended animation, has been attended with fatal conſequences. I am at preſent engaged in purſuing a ſeries of experiments, which, when completed, will throw more light on the ſubject: and it will be the pride of my life to employ my leiſure hours to thoſe enquiries, which can lend to any diſcoveries that can tend to abbreviate the catalogue of human maladies.

I am, &c. CHARLES BROWN.

Ely Place, Holborn, Oct. 18, 1798.

PEROUSE'S VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD.

Continued from Vol. 4. N. S. p. 838.

CONTENTS.—Deſcription of Eaſter Iſland—Occurrences there—Manners and Cuſtoms of the Inhabitants.

COOK'S BAY, in Eaſter Iſland, or *Ile de Paque*, is ſituated in 27° 11′ ſouth latitude, and 111° 55′ 30″ weſt longitude. It is the only anchorage, ſheltered from the eaſt and ſouth-eaſt winds, that is to be found in theſe latitudes. The landing is eaſy enough at the foot of one of the ſtatues of which I ſhall preſently ſpeak.

At day-break I made every preparation for our landing. I had reaſon to flatter myſelf I ſhould find friends

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on ſhore, ſince I had loaded all thoſe with preſents who had come from thence over night. We amounted to about ſeventy perſons, including our boats crews.

Four or five hundred Indians were waiting for us on the ſhore; they were unarmed; ſome of them clothed in pieces of white or yellow ſtuff, but the greater number naked: many were tatooed, and had their faces painted red; their ſhouts and countenances were expreſſive of joy; and they came forward to offer us their hands, and to facilitate our landing.

The iſland in this part riſes about twenty feet from the ſea. The hills are ſeven or eight hundred toiſes inland; and from their baſe the country ſlopes with a gentle declivity toward the ſea. This ſpace is covered with graſs fit for the feeding of cattle; among which are large ſtones lying looſe upon the ground: they appeared to me to be the ſame as thoſe of the Iſle of France, called there *giraumons* (pumpkins) becauſe the greater number are of the ſize of that fruit: theſe ſtones, which we found ſo troubleſome in walking, are of great uſe, by contributing to the freſhneſs and moiſture of the ground, and partly ſupply the want of the ſalutary ſhade they were ſo imprudent as to cut down, in times, no doubt, very remote, by which their country lies fully expoſed to the ſun, and is deſtitute of running ſtreams and ſprings. They were ignorant, that in little iſlands ſurrounded by an immenſe ocean, the coolneſs of land covered with trees can alone ſtop and condenſe the clouds, and thus attract to the mountains abundant rain to form ſprings and rivulets on all ſides. Thoſe iſlands which are deprived of this advantage are reduced to a dreadful drought, which, by degrees, deſtroying the ſhrubs and plants, renders them almoſt uninhabitable. M. de Langle and myſelf had no doubt, that this people owed the misfortune of their ſituation to the imprudence of their anceſtors; and it is probable, that the other iſlands of the South Sea abound in water, only becauſe they fortunately contain mountains, on which it has been impoſſible to cut down the woods: thus the liberality of nature to the inhabitants of theſe latter iſlands appears, notwithſtanding her ſeeming parſimony in reſerving to herſelf theſe inacceſſible places. A long abode in the Iſle of France, which ſo ſtrikingly reſembles Eaſter Iſland, has convinced me, that trees never ſhoot again in ſuch ſituations, unleſs they are ſheltered from the ſea winds, either by other trees or an enclоſure of walls: and the knowledge of this fact has diſcovered to me the cauſe of the devaſtation of Eaſter Iſland. The inhabitants have much leſs reaſon to complain of the eruptions of their volcanoes, long ſince extinguiſhed, than of their own imprudence. But as man by habit accuſtoms himſelf to almoſt any ſituation, theſe people appeared leſs miſerable to me than to Captain Cook and Mr Forſter. They arrived here after a long and diſagreeable voyage; in want of every thing, and ſick of the ſcurvy; they found neither water, wood, nor hogs; a few fowls, bananas, and potatoes are but feeble reſources in theſe circumſtances. Our ſituation and circumſtances was infinitely better: the crews enjoyed the moſt perfect health; we had taken in at Chili every thing that was neceſſary for many months, and we only deſired of theſe people the privilege of doing them good: we brought them goats, ſheep, and hogs; we had ſeeds of orange, lemon, and cotton trees, of maize, and, in ſhort, of every ſpecies of plants, which was likely to flouriſh in the iſland.

Our firſt care after landing was to form an enclоſure with armed ſoldiers ranged in a circle; and having en-

joined the inhabitants to leave this space void, we pitched a tent in it; I then ordered to be brought on shore the various presents that I intended for them, as well as the different animals: but as I had expressly forbidden the men to fire, or even keep at a distance, by the butt ends of their firelocks, such of the Indians as might be too troublesome, the soldiers soon found themselves exposed to the rapacity of the continually increasing number of these islanders. They were at least eight hundred; and in this number there were certainly a hundred and fifty women. The faces of these were many of them agreeable; and they offered their favours to all those who would make them a present. The Indians would engage us to accept them, by themselves setting the example. They were only separated from the view of the spectators by a simple covering of the stuff of the country; and while our attention was attracted by the women, we were robbed of our hats and handkerchiefs. They all appeared to be accomplices in the robbery; for scarcely was it accomplished, than like a flock of birds they all fled at the same instant; but seeing that we did not make use of our firelocks, they returned a few minutes after, recommenced their careeses, and watched the moment for committing a new depredation: this proceeding continued the whole morning. As we were obliged to go away at night, and had so little time to employ in their education, we determined to amuse ourselves with the tricks made use of to rob us; and at length, to obviate every pretence that might lead to dangerous consequences, I ordered them to restore to the soldiers and sailors the hats which had been taken away. The Indians were unarmed; three or four only, out of the whole number, had a kind of wooden club, which was far from being formidable. Some of them seemed to have a slight authority over the others: I took them for chiefs, and distributed medals among them, which I hung round their necks by a chain; but I soon found that these were the most notorious thieves; and although they had the appearance of pursuing those who took away our handkerchiefs, it was easy to perceive that they did so with the most decided intention not to overtake them.

Having only eight or ten hours to remain upon the island, and wishing to make the most of our time, I left the care of the tent and all our effects to M. D. Escures, my first lieutenant, giving him charge beside of all the soldiers and sailors who were on shore. We then divided ourselves into two parties; the first, under the command of M. de Langle, was to penetrate as far as possible into the interior of the island, to sow seeds in all such places as might appear favourable to vegetation, to examine the soil, plants, cultivation, population, monuments, and in short every thing which might be interesting among this very extraordinary people: those who felt themselves strong enough to take a long journey, accompanied him; among these were Messieurs Dagelet de Lamanon, Duche, Dufresne, de la Martiniere, father Receveur, the Abbé Monges, and the gardener. The second, of which I was one, contented itself with visiting the monuments, terraces, houses, and plantations within the distance of a league round our establishment. The drawing of these monuments, made by Mr Hodges, was a very imperfect representation of what we saw. Mr Forster thinks that they are the work of a people much more considerable than is at present found here; but his opinion appears to me by no means well founded. The largest of the rude busts which are upon these terraces, and which we measured, is only fourteen feet six inches in height, seven feet six inches in breadth across the shoulders, three feet in thickness round

the belly, six feet broad, and five feet thick at the base; these might well be the work of the present race of inhabitants, whose numbers I believe, without the smallest exaggeration, amount to two thousand. The number of women appeared to be nearly that of the men, and the children seemed to be in the same proportion as in other countries; and although out of about twelve hundred persons, who on our arrival collected in the neighbourhood of the bay, there were at most three hundred women, I have not drawn any other conjecture from it, than that the people from the extremity of the island had come to see our ships, and that the women, either from greater delicacy, or from being more employed in the management of their family affairs and children, had remained in their houses; consequently that we saw only those who inhabit the vicinity of the bay. The narrative of M. de Langle confirms this opinion; he met in the interior of the island a great many women and children: and we all entered into those caverns in which Mr Forster and some officers of Captain Cook thought at first that the women might be concealed. These are subterraneous habitations, of the same form as those which I shall presently describe, and in which we found little faggots, the largest piece of which was not five feet in length, and did not exceed six inches in diameter. It is however certain, that the inhabitants hid their women when Captain Cook visited them in 1772; but it is impossible for me to guess the reason of it, and we are indebted, perhaps, to the generous manner in which he conducted himself toward these people, for the confidence they put in us, which has enabled us to form a more accurate judgment of their population.

All the monuments which are at this time in existence, and of which M. Duche has given a very exact drawing, appeared to be very ancient; they are situate in morais (or burying places) as far as we can judge from the great quantity of bones which we found near by. There can be no doubt that the form of their present government may have so far equalized their condition, that there no longer exists among them a chief of sufficient authority to employ a number of men in erecting a statue to perpetuate his memory. These colossal statues are at present surrounded by small pyramidal heaps of stones, the topmost of which is whitewashed. These species of mausoleums, which are only the work of an hour for a single man, are piled up upon the sea shore; and one of the natives shewed us that these stones covered a tomb, by laying himself down at full length on the ground; afterward, raising his hands towards the sky, he appeared evidently desirous of expressing that they believed in a future state. I was upon my guard against this opinion, but having seen this sign repeated by many, and M. de Langle, who had penetrated into the interior of the island, having reported the same fact, I no longer entertained a doubt of it, and I believe that all our officers and passengers partook in this opinion; we did not however perceive traces of any worship; for I do not think that any one can take statues for idols, although these Indians may have shewed a kind of veneration for them. These busts of colossal size, the dimensions of which I have already given, and which strongly prove the small progress they have made in sculpture, are formed of a volcanic production known to naturalists by the name of Lapillo: this is so soft and light a stone, that some of Captain Cook's officers thought it was artificial, composed of a kind of mortar which had been hardened in the air. No more remains, but to explain how it was possible to raise, without engines, so very considerable a weight; but as it is certainly a very light volcanic

canic ſtone, it would be eaſy, with levers five or ſix toiſes long, and by ſliping ſtones underneath, as Captain Cook very well explains it, to lift a much more conſiderable weight; a hundred men would be ſufficient for this purpoſe, for indeed there would not have been room for more. Thus the wonder diſappears; we reſtore to nature her ſtone of Lagullo, which is not factitious; and have reaſon to think, that if there are no monuments of modern conſtruction in the iſland, it is becauſe all ranks in it are become equal, and that a man has but little temptation to make himſelf king of a people almoſt naked, and who live on potatoes and yams; and on the other hand, theſe Indians not being able to go to war from the want of neighbours, have no need of a chief.

I can only hazard conjectures upon the manners of this people, whoſe language I did not underſtand, and whom I ſaw only during the courſe of one day; but peſſeſſing the experience of former navigators, from an acquaintance with their narratives, I was able to add to them my own obſervations.

Scarcely a tenth part of the land in this iſland is under cultivation; and I am perſuaded that three days labour of each Indian is ſufficient to procure their annual ſubſiſtence. The eaſe with which the neceſſaries of life are procured, ſeems to ſhow, that the productions of the earth were in common. Beſides, I am nearly certain the lands are common, at leaſt to a whole village or diſtrict. I meaſured one of their houſes near our tents*; it was one hundred and ten feet in length, ten feet broad, and ten feet high in the middle; its form was that of a canoe reverſed: the only entrance was by two doors, two feet high, through which it was neceſſary to creep on hands and feet. This houſe is capable of containing more than two hundred perſons: it is not the dwelling of any chief, for there is not any furniture in it, and ſo great a ſpace would be uſeleſs to him, it forms a village of itſelf, with two or three ſmall houſes at a little diſtance from it. There is probably, in every diſtrict, a chief, who ſuperintends the plantations. Captain Cook thought that this chief was the proprietor of it; but if this celebrated navigator found ſome difficulty in procuring a conſiderable quantity of yams and potatoes, it ought rather to be attributed to the ſcarcity of theſe eatables, than to the neceſſity of obtaining an almoſt general conſent of their being ſold.

As for the women, I dare not decide whether they are common to a whole diſtrict, and the children to the republic: certain it is that no Indian appeared to have the authority of a huſband over any one of the women, and if they are private property, it is a kind of which the poſſeſſors are very liberal.

I have already mentioned, that ſome of the houſes are ſubterraneous; but others are built with reeds, which proves that there are marſhy places in the interior of the iſland. The reeds are very ſkilfully arranged, and are a ſufficient defence againſt the rain. The building is ſupported by pillars of cut ſtone, eighteen inches thick; in theſe, holes are bored at equal diſtances, through which paſs long poles, which form an arched frame; the ſpace between is filled up with reed thatch.

I made a collection of ſpecimens of theſe ſtones; they conſiſt of lava of different compactneſs. The lighteſt, and that which conſequently would be the ſooneſt decompoſed, forms the outer ſoil in the interior of the iſland; that which is next the ſea conſiſts of a lava much more compact, ſo as to make a longer reſiſtance, but I do not know any inſtrument or matter hard enough, in the poſſeſſion of theſe iſlanders, to cut the latter ſtones; perhaps a longer continuance on the

* This houſe was not then finiſhed; for Captain Cook could not poſſibly have ſeen the

* Theſe are not free ſtone, but compact lava.

iſland might have furniſhed me with ſome explanations on this ſubject. At two o'clock I returned on board and M. de Clonard went on ſhore. Soon afterward two officers of the Aſtrolabe arrived, to inform me that the Indians had juſt committed a new theft, which might be attended with more ſerious conſequences. Some divers had cut under water the ſmall cable of the Aſtrolabe's boat, and had taken away her grapnel, which had not been diſcovered till the robbers were pretty far advanced into the interior of the iſland. As this grapnel was neceſſary to us, two officers and ſeveral ſoldiers purſued them; but they were aſſailed by a ſhower of ſtones. A muſquet, loaded with powder, and fired in the air, had no effect; they were at length under the neceſſity of firing one with ſmall ſhot, ſome grains of which doubtleſs ſtruck one of thoſe Indians, for the ſtoning ceaſed, and our officers were able peaceably to regain our boat; but it was impoſſible to overtake the robbers, who muſt have been aſtoniſhed at not having been able to weary our patience.

They ſoon returned around our tents, recommenced the offers of their wares, and we were as good friends as at our firſt interview. At length, at ſix in the evening, every thing was re-embarked, the boats had returned on board, and I made the ſignal to prepare for ſailing. Before we got under way, M de Langle gave me an account of his journey into the interior of the iſland, which I ſhall relate in the following chapter: he had ſown the ſeeds in different parts of the road, and had given the iſlanders proofs of the greateſt good will toward them. I will, however, finiſh their portrait by relating, that a ſort of chief, to whom M. de Langle made a preſent of a he and the goat, received them with one hand, and robbed him of his handkerchief with the other.

It is certain that theſe people have not the ſame idea of theft that we have; with them, probably no ſhame is attached to it; but they very well knew, that they committed an unjuſt action, ſince they immediately took to flight, in order to avoid the puniſhment which they doubtleſs feared, and which we ſhould certainly have inflicted on them in proportion to the crime, had we made any conſiderable ſtay in the iſland; for our extreme lenity might have ended by producing diſagreeable conſequences.

No one, after having read the narratives of the latter navigators, can take the Indians of the South ſea for ſavages; they have, on the contrary, made very great progreſs in civilization, and I think them as corrupt as the circumſtances in which they are placed will allow them to be. This opinion of them is not founded upon the different thefts, which they committed, but upon the manner in which they effected them. The moſt hardened rogues of Europe, are not ſuch great hypocrites as theſe iſlanders; all their careſſes were feigned; their countenances never expreſſed a ſingle ſentiment of truth; and the man of whom it was neceſſary to be moſt diſtruſtful, was the Indian to whom a preſent had that moment been made, and who appeared the moſt eager to return for it a thouſand little ſervices.

They brought to us by force young girls of thirteen or fourteen years of age, in the hope of receiving pay for them; the repugnance of thoſe young females was a proof, that in this reſpect the cuſtom of the country was violated. Not a ſingle Frenchman made uſe of the barbarous right which was given him; and if there were ſome moments dedicated to nature, the deſire and conſent were mutual, and the women made the firſt advances.

I found again in this country all the arts of the Society Iſles, but with much fewer means of exerciſing them, for want of the raw materials. Their

canoes

canoes have alſo the ſame form, but they are compoſed only of very narrow planks, four or five feet long, and at moſt can carry but four men. I have only ſeen three of them in this part of the iſland, and I ſhould not be much ſurpriſed, if in a ſhort time, for want of wood, there ſhould not be a ſingle one remaining there. They have beſides, learned to make ſhift without them; and they ſwim ſo expertly, that in the moſt tempeſtuous ſea they go two leagues from the ſhore, and in returning to land, often, by way of ſport, chooſe thoſe places where the ſurf breaks with the greateſt fury.

The coaſt appeared to me not to abound much in fiſh, and I believe that the inhabitants live chiefly on vegetables; their food conſiſts of potatoes, yams, bananas, ſugar canes, and a ſmall fruit which grows upon the rocks on the ſea ſhore, ſimilar to the grapes that are found in parts adjacent to the tropic in the Atlantic Ocean; the few fowls that are found upon the iſland cannot be conſidered as a reſource. Our naturaliſts did not meet with any land fowl, and even the ſea birds are not very common.

The fields are cultivated with a great deal of care. They ſow up the grain, lay it in heaps, burn it, and then ſtrew the land with its aſhes. The banana trees are planted in a ſtraight line. They alſo cultivate the ſugar reed, but I am ignorant what the method of it is; if I knew they had wells which could furniſh me, I ſhould think, that, as at Malaſpina, or the Iſle of France, they put it in the ſame manner as they do tobacco; but as they have no other method of cooking their proviſion than that of the Sandwich Iſles, which conſiſts in digging a hole, and covering their yams and potatoes with red hot ſtones and embers, mixed with earth, ſo that every thing which they eat is ſmoke-dried.

The eagerneſs with which they meaſured the ſhip, ſhowed, that they had not been inattentive ſpectators of our arts; they examined our cables, anchors, compaſs, and wheel, and they returned the next day with a cord to take the meaſure over again, which made me think, that they had had ſome diſcuſſions on ſhore upon the ſubject, and that they had ſtill doubts relative to it. One reflection will, perhaps, eſcape them, namely, that we employed no violence againſt them; though they were not ignorant of our being armed, ſince the mere preſenting a firelock in ſport made them run away: on the contrary, we landed on the iſland only with an intention to do them ſervice; we heaped preſents upon them, we careſſed the children; we ſowed in their fields all kinds of uſeful ſeeds; preſented them with hogs, goats and ſheep, which probably will multiply; we demanded nothing in return; nevertheleſs they threw ſtones at us, and robbed us of every thing which it was poſſible for them to take away. It would, perhaps, have been imprudent in other circumſtances to conduct ourſelves with ſo much lenity; but I had reſolved to go away in the evening, and I dreaded myſelf that at day-break, when they no longer perceived our ſhips, they would attribute our ſpeedy departure to the diſpleaſure we entertained at their proceedings, and that this reflection might amend them; though this idea is a little chimerical, it is of no great conſequence to navigators, as the iſland offers ſcarcely any reſource to ſhips that may touch there, beſide being of no great diſtance from the Sandwich Iſles. (*To be continued.*)

Roller iſland, diſcovered in 1722 by Roggewein, appears, according to Forſter, to have experienced a reverſe in its productions, and in the products of its ſoil; this fact might be inferred from the conſiderable difference in the accounts of theſe two navigators. The reader who may be deſirous to reconcile them ought to conſult the Voyage of Roggewein, printed at the Hague in 1760.

THE

THE NUT-SHELL.

From the German Miscellany.

SLIGHT and almoſt infinitely ſlender are the threads of the ſpider, or the web of the ſilk-worm; but infinitely more ſlender are thoſe threads by which the fates of Mankind are connected and entangled. This truth was long overlooked by our writers of novels and romances; and even now it cannot be ſuperfluous to relate the ſtory of a young man, who was brought to infamy and ruin by a nut-ſhell.

Berndorf was a youth of ardour and ſenſibility, with the pureſt principles of religion and probity; the moſt honourable of men towards his friend, and towards his miſtreſs: for both of whom he would have ſacrificed, upon a proper occaſion, both his fortune and his life.

He was returned from the univerſity of Gottingen, with a head full of philoſophy, and a heart ſtill fuller of enthuſiaſm for all that was fair and good. In a town ſuch as D——, for the embelliſhment of which Nature had produced ſo many charming girls, it was impoſſible for a heart ſo tender as Berndorf's to remain long unſubdued. Two nymphs ſtrove for its dominion, and he heſitated a conſiderable time between them. Amelia Mildau, fair, gentle, young, and rich, with faultleſs manners unblemiſhed reputation, contended for the prize with Julia Hilmer, equal in fortune, much fairer, but leſs amiable, mild, and good. The one allured by her ſweetneſs and ſenſibility; the other dazzled by the power of her wit. The quiet and retirement of a country life appeared to be fitted for the temper of Amelia, while that of Julia would have ſuited a metropolis.

Berndorf was long undetermined; like the Falſtaff of Shakeſpeare, he would willingly have taken both; the one for ſundays and feſtivals, the other the everyday comforts of life: but his better genius at large declared for Amelia. He firſt ſued for, and obtained her friendſhip; then went a ſtep farther, and declared her love; ſo that he now looked upon himſelf as her acknowledged bridegroom; and nothing was wanting to the union, but the death of his predeceſſor in office, and his own advancement to fill the poſt. Though he was daily advancing in her good graces, he ſtill thought his progreſs too ſlow; till at laſt, after one of his colleagues had been ſo obliging as to make way for him, he had the extatic felicity of hearing Amelia, his Amelia's own lips, fix the term following as the time of their union.

Once on a ſultry afternoon in ſummer, tired with the drudgery and formalities of buſineſs, he hurried for refreſhment to the ſociety of his beloved, and found her quite alone in an open window, where ſhe was employed with a book, and with intervals with opening ſome hazel nuts that lay before her. She received him in the tendereſt manner; he ſat long, leaning on her arm, talking of his paſſion, of her merit, and her charms, of a thouſand feelings known only to themſelves, of a thouſand proſpects and projects for futurity, and of all thoſe pleaſing recollections, which were connected with the beginning of their acquaintance.

Wholly engroſſed with his own feelings, and with ſuch favourite topics of diſcourſe, he ſnatched up, without knowing thereof, a handful of nut-ſhells, and threw them out of the window.

"What are you doing, Berndorf?" cried Amelia inſtantly; "you have thrown them upon ſomebody's head." "I ſhould be ſorry for that," anſwered he ſmiling, and went directly to the window; but drew back with great ſurpriſe and precipitation, for he ſaw there two ladies ſtanding beneath it, and gazing up. Amelia, who obſerved the alteration of his colour, followed him with equal heedleſſneſs to the window; and, beſides ſeeing the ſame objects, heard diſtinctly theſe words: "I thank you, Berndorf, for this inſtance of your civility: for it is quite novel, and ſo much the more ingenious. You was perhaps afraid that I ſhould not otherwiſe have obſerved your amiable companion."

"It is the voice of Julia Hilmer," cried Amelia, in a tone of the bitterеſt vexation. "A pretty exploit you have juſt now committed, you thoughtleſs, raſh, trifling fellow. She has long had an ill will to us both, and will undoubtedly look upon it as an intended affront." Berndorff employed all his eloquence to reſtore his miſtreſs to

her wonted temper and compoſure; and when he was beginning to hope that he might accompliſh his promiſe, he was interrupted by the entrance of Amelia's waiting maid. She, who was a great favourite with her miſtreſs, had by chance been ſtanding at the houſe door, when the noiſe of Julia had been ſo unluckily aſſiſted; and ſhe now related all the ſpeeches, gibes, and farcaſms, which Julia either uttered, or might have uttered.

The rage of Amelia increaſed at every word. It was in vain to be aſſured her that what was ſaid by ſuch a madcap as Julia was of no conſequence. She continued in the ſame paſſionate humour, and at laſt ordered him directly to go to Julia, and to take the blame of the whole matter upon himſelf. It was however with the greateſt reluctance, and with a great grudge at his once ſo beloved Amelia, that he went to wait upon her former rival. Julia ſeemed at firſt a great deal ſurpriſed at the ſight of a man, to whoſe viſits ſhe had now been ſo long unaccuſtomed; but being a true miſtreſs in the art of diſſimulation, recovered herſelf immediately, received him with the moſt diſtinguiſhed politeneſs, liſtened with a gracious ſmile to his ſtammering apology, aſſured him that it was already half forgotten, and wholly forgiven, and deſired him very courteouſly to be ſeated. Berndorf ſoon found Julia's converſation ſo agreeable, that half an hour flew as quickly away as a minute. Meanwhile Julia's father came into the room, and intreated him to ſtay dinner; and though Berndorf offered to excuſe himſelf as willing to take leave of Amelia, who was going to ſee an aunt in the country, Julia employed ſo many intreaties, and ſo much raillery on the ſcrupulous punctuality of the tender ſwain, that at laſt he yielded and ſtaid.

More gueſts ſoon made their appearance; the entertainment was ſplendid; the wines excellent; and Berndorf was ſeated purpoſely next to Julia. She had already laid down a very artful plan; and by a mixture of true and falſe wit, continued to dazzle the eyes of every one with a ſplendour unuſual even to her. At laſt, though very late in the afternoon, dinner was ended, and they roſe from table. Berndorf again recollected Amelia; and, though preſſed to a ſhort walk after their coffee, politely though firmly declined the invitation.

He was ſcarcely got into the open air, when he felt the weight of the raſh action he had committed. He arrived at the habitation of Amelia, and finding from the maid, that ſhe had delayed her journey, he flew up ſtairs to make his apology. He only committed a new fault, rather than ſubmit to do penance for the firſt; and endeavour to conceal the true cauſe of his ſtay under the pretence of ſome buſineſs of importance. His artifice, however, was diſcovered, and Amelia, irritated by his attempt to deceive her, orders him abruptly to withdraw. While he heſitates to obey, ſhe hurries into an adjoining apartment; and, going down ſtairs by a private paſſage, ſteps into the carriage, and drives off with a quickneſs ſufficient to prevent her being followed.

Berndorf haſtens out of the houſe, greatly mortified; and, while paſſing along the bridge, falls in with a company of well dreſſed women, who prove to be the dinner party he had juſt left. His reſentment at the late conduct of Amelia arrayed Julia in double charms: ſhe, though already provided with an attendant, ſecured him on her other hand, and her whole diſcourſe was again directed to him. While they were thus converſing and walking along, a carriage drove up behind them; they looked up, and Julia exclaimed, "There is your Miſs Mildan! quick, off with your hat, Mr. Celadon." It was indeed but too ſurely Amelia. She had taken up a female friend, and loitered a few minutes with her: her road then lay acroſs the bridge; ſhe knew Berndorf at a conſiderable diſtance, and, putting on one of the moſt fearful glances her mild countenance could aſſume, leaned out of the carriage, and ſaid to him as ſhe drove paſt, "I am glad to ſee you in ſuch good company; I will keep the promiſe you made me at parting."

"Does every thing then conſpire for my deſtruction?" exclaimed Berndorf, forgetting where he was. "For your deſtruction!" aſked Julia haſtily; "how can that be, my dear friend? Have you had any quarrel with Amelia? Not I hope on my account!"

By

By degrees the sprightliness and wit of his companion dispelled the clouds that surrounded him; he fell into that extravagant vivacity which is commonly adopted to conceal vexation, and encouraged Julia to employ every faculty for the recovery of the fugitive.

She invited him at parting to attend her the next day at the theatre. Berndorf was too sensible of the new passion that was springing up in his bosom, and honest enough to acknowledge that it was his duty to check it in the bud; nevertheless his inward dissatisfaction, his respect for the rules of politeness, and his own inclination, got the better. On leaving the theatre, he was again asked, as if wholly by chance, to be of the party to-morrow for an airing: he made Julia half a promise to come; and, after walking up and down in his chamber for two hours in hesitation, said at last to himself, "Only for this once;" and so continued to play the same part, with a few slight variations, for six or seven days.

Yet Berndorf often reflected with anxiety on Amelia, and the means of appeasing her resentment. One word or a line from her would have brought the wanderer back on the right way; but alas! she still refused to utter it; and, since the last adventure upon the bridge, resolved to persist in keeping him at a distance.

Julia's attractions on the other hand, became daily more dangerous; and he was just on the point of assuming courage to speak, when he heard that Amelia was returned to town. His good angel now interposed; he flew to her habitation, but was not admitted; thrice he repeated his application, and thrice was he repulsed from the door. The plague of human life, the unlucky race of tale-bearers, interfered in this matter, and added to Amelia's resentment by a thousand stories concerning the number of times, and the precise circumstances, in which Berndorf and Julia had been seen together.

She now resolved to prove him in an exemplary manner. Of this sort of trial he soon became weary, and began to absent himself from a door which he now found always shut against him. This behaviour was looked upon by Amelia as high treason; and Julia, in consequence, soon beheld herself the declared mistress of his heart. He avowed his love; she confessed that it was mutual; her father gave his entire approbation, and in a few weeks their hands were united.

[*To be continued.*]

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

A Survey of the Turkish Empire. By W. Eton, Esq; many years resident in Turkey and in Russia. 8vo. 2s. Boards. *Cadell jun. and Davies.*

MR ETON draws a hideous portrait of the Ottomans, and, allowing for a little depth of colouring naturally to be expected from a disappointed man, the picture may be true in a qualified degree. He is aware that many writers have seen things in a different light; and that therefore he may be accused of treating the Turks too severely, particularly by those who admire Lady Mary Wortley Montague's elegant descriptions, and similar productions of a warm imagination: but he draws conclusions from facts recorded in their own history; and there cannot be a more horrible picture than that which they have themselves delineated. The sentiments (he says) expressed by the Sultans and Mussies, in their own words, are so repugnant to justice, to humanity, to every principle of virtue, and to those laws which all civilized nations have respected, that nothing worse can be said of them. The effects produced (continues Mr E.) by this monstrous government, in the provinces, are shocking to behold!

We shall endeavour to give a short analysis of the chief articles in this work.

Of the *Government* of Turkey he says, "It has been called a *military* government, from the nature of its origin, and the means most frequently employed in its administration; and it has obtained the denomination of a *theocracy*, because its fundamental code is the Koran. Each of these statements contains something that is erroneous-

A military government ſuppoſes the dictates of an arbitrary chief, requiring implicit obedience in every inferior, and preſcribing a certain and inevitable puniſhment for neglect and miſconduct: it excludes all formality and delay, and it is enforced by military power. In theocracies, the will of the leader has not or pretends not to have the direction of the mind: himſelf an inſtrument in the hands of a ſuperior Being, he communicates to the people, at various times, and as occaſion requires, the commands of the Divinity. The Turkiſh government bears evident traces of both theſe ſyſtems, derived from the character of its founder; but there are ſome points of difference which prove it to be *ſui generis*, an heteroclite monſter among the various ſpecies of deſpotiſm. In the Mohammedan ſyſtem we may trace three æras. The *firſt*, which was of that kind uſually denominated a theocracy, continued during the lifetime of the prophet himſelf, who, like Moſes and Joſhua among the Jews, appeared in the double character of a military chief and an inſpired legiſlator. The *ſecond* was the government of the Saracen kalifs, his immediate ſucceſſors: they bore indeed the double ſceptre of temporal and ſpiritual power; but as they pretended to no perſonal communications with the Almighty, all the ſanctity of their character conſiſted in being the deſcendants of the prophet, and the guardians and expoſitors of his law. The preſent Turkiſh conſtitution forms the *third* gradation: like the preceding, it has the inviolable code in the ſacred volume of its religion; like them alſo its reliance is on the power of the ſword, and the modes of its adminiſtration are military; but it has a great eſſential difference in the ſeparation of the temporal and ſpiritual authorities. This *diviſion of power* originated in the political error of the Ottoman princes, who, eager only for military glory, and perhaps willing to caſt a ſpecious veil over their uſurpation, when they finally ſuppreſſed the kalifat, did not aſſume to themſelves all its functions, but reſigned into the hands of the theological lawyers the ſpiritual ſupremacy. No deſpotiſm was ever more profoundly politic than that, which, wielding at once the temporal and ſpiritual ſword, converted fanaticiſm itſelf into an inſtrument of ſovereignty, and united in one perſon the voice and the arm of the Divinity."

Of their *Tribunals*. "Injuſtice, Mr E. tells us, is the fundamental feature in their character, and every day's experience confirms the cenſure of Mahomet, by repeated inſtances of corruption. The cuſtom of the Turkiſh Kadis, or judges, in deciding in favour of thoſe who have paid them, is often very ingenious; many pleaſant ſtories are told of them; and it is actually a ſort of ſubject for a kind of comedians who act in coffee-houſes or in private houſes, but without dreſs or ſcenery; one of them performing the part of a Kadi, and two others perſonating the plaintiff and defendant."

Of their *Manners and Religion* our author ſays, "The moſt ſtriking, as well as the moſt diſguſting feature of Turkiſh manners, is that haughty conceit of ſuperiority, ariſing from the moſt narrow and intolerant bigotry. There have been but two many inſtances in hiſtory, of nations, who, having proudly arrogated to themſelves the title of favourites of the Almighty, have on that account excerciſed an inſolent diſdain toward all who were without the pale of their religion. In no inſtance, however, has this folly appeared more diſguſtingly conſpicuous than in the Turkiſh nation: it marks the public and the private character; it appears in the ſolemnity of their legal acts, in the ceremonies of the court, and in the coarſe ruſticity of vulgar manners.—If we liſten to the dictates of their law, dictates which ought to have been conceived with caution, and uttered with calmneſs, we hear nothing but the accents of intolerence breathed forth with all the inſolence of deſpotiſm.

"Every ſubject who is not of the Mohammedan religion is allowed only the cruel alternative of death or tribute. The very words of the formulary given to their Chriſtian ſubjects on paying the capitation tax, import, that the ſum of money received is taken as a compenſation for being permitted to *wear their heads that year*.

"The inſulting diſtinction of Chriſtian and Mohammedan is carried to ſo great a length, that even the minutiæ of dreſs are rendered ſubjects of reſtriction. A Chriſtian muſt wear only cloaths and head-dreſſes of dark colours, and ſuch as Turks never wear, with

with flippers of black leather, and muſt paint his houſe black, or dark brown. The leaſt violation of theſe frivolous and diſguſting regulations is puniſhed with death. Nor is it at all uncommon for a Chriſtian to have his head struck off in the ſtreet, for indulging in a little more foppery of dreſs than the Sultan or Vizir, whom he may meet incognito, approves*.

"If a Chriſtian ſtrikes a Mohammedan, he is moſt commonly put to death on the ſpot, or at leaſt, ruined by fines, and ſeverely baſtinadoed: if he ſtrikes, unluckily by accident, a *Seriff*, or *Iemin*, as they are called in Turkiſh; *i. e.* a deſcendant of Mohammed, who wear green turbands, of which there are thouſands in ſome cities, it is death without remiſſion.

"The teſtimony of Chriſtians is little regarded in courts of juſtice: at beſt, two teſtimonies are but conſidered as one, and are even overborne by that of a ſingle Mohammedan, if reputed at all an honeſt man.

"The Chriſtians can build no new church, and not without great ſums obtain a licence even to repair old ones: if a Mohammedan kills a Chriſtian he is generally only fined.

"Sultan Muſtafa, father of Selim, the preſent Grand Signior, when he mounted the throne, propoſed to put to death all the Chriſtians in the whole empire; and was with difficulty diſſuaded from doing it, on the ground of the loſs of capitation. This prince, however, in the courſe of his reign, appeared to be actuated by a love of the ſtricteſt juſtice. What muſt that religion and thoſe principles be, which could induce a juſt, at leaſt a well-intentioned man, to maſſacre whole provinces of defenceleſs ſubjects!

Of their *Manners and Geography.* "From the Muſti to the peaſant it is generally believed, that there are ſeven heavens, from which the earth is immovably ſuſpended by a large chain: that the ſun is an immenſe ball of fire, at leaſt as big as a whole Ottoman province, formed for the ſole purpoſe of giving light and heat to the earth: that eclipſes of the moon are occaſioned by a great dragon attempting to devour that luminary: that the fixed ſtars hang by chains from the higheſt heaven, &c. Theſe abſurdities are in part ſupported by the teſtimony of the Koran; and the aſtronomers, as they are called, themſelves all pretend to aſtrology, a profeſſion ſo much eſteemed, that an aſtrologer is kept in the pay of the court, as well as of moſt great men.

"Of the relative ſituation of countries they are ridiculouſly ignorant, and all their accounts of foreign nations are miſed with ſuperſtitious fables. Before the Ruſſian fleet came into the Mediterranean, the miniſters of the Porte would not believe it poſſible for them to approach Conſtantinople but from the black Sea.

Ancient Hiſtory. "They have heard of an Alexander, who was the greateſt monarch and conqueror, and the greateſt hero in the world. The Sultans often compare themſelves to him in their writings. Sultan Mahommed IV. in his letter to the Ruſſian Tzar Alexius Michaelovitch, call himſelf "Maſter of the univerſe, and equal in power to Alexander the Great." They talk of him always as the model of heroiſm to be imitated, but they know not who he was. Solomon, they ſay, was the wiſeſt man, and the greateſt magician that ever exiſted. Palmyra and Balbek, they ſay, were built by ſpirits at the command of Solomon.

Poetry and *General Literature.* "They have a few poets, as they are called, whoſe compoſitions are moſtly little ſongs and ballads; but in theſe as well as their proſe writings, they differ widely from the ſimplicity of the Arabic, as they abound with falſe conceits: and the language is a barbarous mixture of the Turkiſh with the Perſian and Arabic, not unlike that "Babylonith dialect" of our Puritans, which Butler compares to "ſuſtian cut on ſattin."

Printing. Mr Eton informs us, that frequent attempts to introduce the art of printing among the Turks have uniformly failed, from no other cauſe than the negligence ariſing from their indolence and contempt for all innovations. Since the firſt eſtabliſhment of their manufactory of carpets, the deſigns have never been improved; and the ſame may be ſaid of their embroidery, and of the ſtuffs made at Bruſſa, Aleppo, and Damaſcus. Their carpets owe the whole of their excellence to the

* Mr Eton ſhould have excepted all Chriſtians under the protection of ambaſſadors, or his ſtatement is vague.

the materials of which they are made. Indeed their ignorance in all mechanical arts is surprising to other Europeans.

Marriage, &c. "Marriage is with the Mahometans merely a civil contract: the wife brings no portion to the husband, but the bridegroom stipulates in the marriage-contract, which is executed before a cadi, to allow a certain allowance money to the wife in case of repudiation, or the death of the husband.—When a Turk drinks wine, it is in the power of any intoxicated person to demand a certain quantity of money, which he must pay upon the spot, or be severely beaten. Both these things are done in such a way, as to bring every offender to the cadi in which they are held in derision."

About Mr Brown will not allow the Turks to pull out the eyes of those whom they have conquered, as they have been generally accused of doing. With the Persians, &c. &c. &c.

A Lecture on the Preservation of Health. By T. Forster, M. D.

"It was with the hope of [illegible] the laws of life more generally known, and better understood, and from these deducing such rules for the preservation of health, as would be evident to every capacity, that the author was induced to deliver this lecture. It has been lamented with the attention of the whole audience, in some of the most populous towns in England, where it has generally been read for the benefit of charitable institutions.

"The author flatters himself, that besides the benefit produced by his humble endeavours to serve these institutions, those endeavours have not totally failed in the grand object of preserving health; and with the hope, that the influence of the precepts here given may be further extended, he has consented to the ideas of those who have advised the publication of this lecture."

The quarter from which Dr Gr[illegible] derived the chief of his materials, is [illegible] acknowledged and defended, in the following passage:

"The first part of the lecture is [illegible] substance of an essay, which was [illegible] by the author before the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh, intended as a defence of the principles of the system of Dr Brown, where pupil he was. It was, according to custom, inscribed in the books of the Society, and the public have now an opportunity of judging how far Dr G[illegible] tance, in his first essay published in the Journal de Physique, about two years after, in which he gives the theory as his own, without the least acknowledgment to the much injured and unfortunate author of the Elements of Medicine, has borrowed from this essay."

Having endeavoured, in the first part of the lecture, concisely to explain the nature of excitability and the laws of excitement, he applies them in the next, and shows in what manner they are to be regulated, in order to prevent the attacks of disease. This is done in a neat and familiar way.

Speaking of the use of vital air, he observes, that it must be evident, from what has been said,

"That in large and populous towns, where combustion and respiration are continually performed on a large scale, the air must be much less pure than in the country, where there are few causes to contaminate the atmosphere, and where vegetables are constantly tending to render it more pure; and if it was not for the winds which agitate this element, and continually occasion its change of place, the air in large towns would probably soon [illegible] co[illegible]

come unfit for reſpiration. Winds bring us the pure air of the country, and take away that from which the vital air has been in a great meaſure extracted; but ſtill, from the immenſe quantity of fuel which is daily burnt, and the number of people breathing in large towns, the air very ſoon becomes impure.

"From the greater purity of the air in the country, proceeds the roſy bloom found in the rural cottage, which we in vain look for in the ſtately palace, or the ſplendid drawing-room. Here then are the reaſons for preferring the country, which no one will diſpute."

And his advice to thoſe whoſe occupations do not permit them to quit ſuch ſituations, is equally deſerving of notice.

"They ſhould make frequent excurſions into the country, or to ſuch ſituations as will enable them to enjoy, and to breathe air of a little more purity. I ſay *enjoy*, for who that has been for ſome time ſhut up in the town, without breathing the pure air of the country, does not feel his ſpirits revived the moment he emerges from the azote of the town. Let not therefore, if poſſible, a ſingle day paſs, without enjoying, if but for an hour, the pure air of the country. Doing this, only for a ſhort time *every* day, would be much more effectual than ſpending whole days, or even weeks in the country, and then returning into the corrupt atmoſphere of the town; for when you have for a long time breathed an impure air, the excitability becomes ſo morbidly accumulated, from the want of the ſtimulus of pure air, that the air of the country will have too great an effect upon you; it will frequently, in the courſe of a day or two, bring on an inflammatory fever, attended with ſtuffing of the noſe, hoarſeneſs, a great degree of heat, and dryneſs of the ſkin, with other ſymptoms of a violent cold.

"Large towns are the graves of the human ſpecies; they would periſh in a few generations, if not conſtantly recruited from the country. The confined, putrid air which moſt of their inhabitants breathe, their want of natural exerciſe, but, above all, their diſſipation, ſhorten their lives, and ruin their conſtitutions.

"Children, particularly, require a pure air; every circumſtance points out the country as the proper place for the education of children; the purity of the air, the variety of roſie ſports, the plainneſs of diet, the ſimplicity and innocence of manners, all concur to recommend it. It is a melancholy fact, that above half the children born in London, die before they are two years old."

On the danger of ſudden applications of heat to the body, when it has been for ſome time expoſed to cold, the author's remarks are ſo juſt, and ſo intereſting to thoſe for whom this eſſay is chiefly deſigned, that we cannot reſiſt the temptation of preſenting them to our readers.

"When you take a ride into the country on a cold day, you find yourſelves very cold; as ſoon as you go into a houſe, you are invited to come to the fire, and warm yourſelves: and what is ſtill worſe, to drink ſomething warm and comfortable, to keep out the cold, as the ſaying is. The inevitable conſequence of this is, to bring on the complaints which I have juſt deſcribed, which might with more propriety be called heats than colds. But how eaſily might theſe complaints have been avoided! When you come out of a very cold atmoſphere, you ſhould not at firſt go into a room that has a fire in it, or if you cannot avoid that, you ſhould keep, for a conſiderable time, at as great a diſtance from the fire as poſſible, that the accumulated excitability may be gradually exhauſted, by the moderate and gentle action of heat; and then you may bear the heat of the fire without any danger: but, above all, refrain from taking warm or ſtrong liquors while you are cold. If a perſon have his hands or feet expoſed to a very ſevere cold, the excitability of thoſe parts will be ſo much accumulated, that if they ſhould be brought ſuddenly near the fire, a violent inflammation, and even a mortification will take place, which has often happened, or, at any rate, chilblains will be produced, from the violent action of the heat upon the accumulated excitability of thoſe parts; but if a perſon, ſo circumſtanced, was to put his hands or feet into cold water, very little warmer than the atmoſphere to which he had been expoſed, or rub them with ſnow, which is not often colder than 32 or 30 degrees, the morbid excitability will be

be gradually exhauſted, and no bad conſequences will enſue.

"When a part of the body only has been expoſed to the action of cold, and the reſt kept heated; if, for inſtance, a perſon in a warm room ſits ſo that a current of air coming through a broken pane, ſhould fall upon any part of the body, that part would be ſoon affected with an inflammation, which is uſually called a rheumatic inflammation."

This he explains on the principle of accumulated excitability rendering the part more ſuſceptible of the action of ſtimulants. Such, in the preſent inſtance, as that of warm blood flowing through the part.

On theſe grounds the doctor conſiders it as a fact, ſupported by experience, that there is not much danger in going out of warm into cold air, but that it is almoſt impoſſible to return ſuddenly from cold into warm air with impunity. This ſtrongly marks the imperfection of general obſervation, when not directed by the light of philoſophy. Mankind have been much more apprehenſive of danger from the tranſition from warm to cold ſituations, than from the contrary.

In order to prevent colds in winter, the author therefore lays down the following rule: "When the whole body, or any part of it, is chilled, bring it to its natural feeling and warmth by degrees."

On a practice which the tyrant faſhion has rendered much too prevalent, that of drinking wine with our food, the doctor offers a few juſt obſervations.

"While we are eating," ſays he, "water is the beſt beverage. The cuſtom of drinking fermented liquors, and particularly wine, during dinner, is a very pernicious one. The idea that it aſſiſts digeſtion is falſe: thoſe who are acquainted with chemiſtry know, that food is hardened, and rendered leſs digeſtible by theſe means; and the ſtimulus which wine gives to the ſtomach is not neceſſary, excepting to thoſe who have exhauſted the excitability of that organ by the exceſſive uſe of ſtrong liquors. In theſe the ſtomach can ſcarcely be excited to any action, without the aſſiſtance of ſuch a ſtimulus. If food wants diluting, water is the beſt diluent, and will prevent the riſing, as it is called, of ſtrong food much better than wine or ſpirits."

The practice of giving children wine he alſo highly condemns, and we think with much propriety and juſtice.

This is, on the whole, a very uſeful attempt to direct mankind more philoſophically in what relates to the preſervation of their health. In the laſt part of his lecture the Doctor has very properly called to his aid the labours of thoſe who have cultivated pneumatic medicine.

An Inquiry into the Cauſes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ, a Diſeaſe diſcovered in ſome of the Weſtern Counties of England, particularly Gloceſterſhire, and known by the Name of the Cow Pox. By Edward Jenner, M. D. F. R. S. 4to. 7s. 6d. Boards. *Law.*

FROM the obſervations and experiments of Dr Jenner, we are made acquainted with a moſt important fact in phyſiology, viz. that the animal œconomy is ſuſceptible of an alteration from the operation of a certain animal poiſon, ſo as to be ſubſequently incapable of a diſeaſe from a different animal poiſon; and the practical application of this fact, tends to the extermination of a moſt offenſive and deſtructive diſeaſe, the Small Pox.

The application of this diſcovery is the inoculating the human ſpecies with the matter taken from cows afflicted with this diſeaſe called the *Variolæ Vaccinæ* or cow pox. The following paſſage will enable our readers to underſtand what the diſtemper is. "In this dairy country (viz. Gloceſterſhire) a great number of cows are kept, and the office of milking is performed indiſcriminately by men and maid-ſervants. One of the former having been appointed to apply dreſſings to the heels of a horſe affected with *the grease*, and not paying due attention to cleanlineſs, incautiouſly bears his part in milking the cows, with ſome particles of the infectious matter adhering to his fingers. When this is the caſe, it commonly happens that a diſeaſe is communicated to the cows, and from the cows to the dairy-maids, which ſpreads through the farm until moſt of the cattle and domeſtics feel its unpleaſant conſequences. This diſeaſe has obtained the name of the Cow Pox. It appears on the nipples of the cows in the form of irregular puſtules. At the firſt

first appearance, they are commonly of a pale blue, or rather of a colour somewhat approaching to livid, and are surrounded by an erysipelatous inflammation. These pustules, unless a timely remedy be applied, frequently degenerate into phagedenic ulcers, which prove extremely troublesome. The axillary glands become indurated, and the secretion of milk is much affected. Slight pains now begin to appear on different parts of the hands of the domestics employed in milking, and sometimes on the wrists, which quickly run into a state of suppuration, first affuming the appearance of the small vesications produced by a burn. Most commonly they appear about the joints of the fingers, and at their extremities; but sometimes the whole hand is affected, if the situation be such, these superficial suppurations run out on a circular form, with the edges more elevated than their centre, and of a colour distantly approaching to blue. Absorption takes place, and tumours appear in each axilla. The system becomes affected; the pulse is quickened: and shiverings, with general lassitude and pains about the limbs, with vomiting, come on. The head is painful, and the patient is sometimes even affected with delirium. These symptoms, varying in their degrees of violence, generally continue from one day to three or four, leaving the affected sores about the hands, which, from the sensibility of the parts, are very troublesome, and commonly heal slowly, frequently becoming phagedenic before they heal. The lips, nostrils, eyelids, and other parts of the body, are sometimes affected with sores; but these evidently arise from their being heedlessly rubbed or scratched with the patient's infected fingers. No eruptions on the skin have followed the decline of the general symptoms, in any instance that has come under my inspection, one case excepted; and in this case only a very few appeared on the arms: they were very minute, of a vivid red colour, and quickly died away without advancing to suppuration: so that I cannot determine whether they had any connection with the preceding symptoms.

"Thus the disease makes its progress from the hoofe to the nipple of the cow, and from the cow to the human subject."

In whatever way the cow acquires the *variolæ vaccinæ*, it is important to observe that the disease is not propagated by effluvia, but by matter evidently applied; and that neither the cow nor the human subject has ever been known to die in consequence of the disorder. The grand point, however, of this distemper is, that *persons who have had the cow-pox, and who have not had the small pox, are rendered incapable of taking the latter.* If the cases related by Dr Jenner be not sufficient to convince sluggish reasoners, and satisfy timorous minds, they are at least more than sufficient to render the fact extremely probable, and to justify other inquirers in a farther investigation of it.

With a view of superseding inoculation for the small pox, Dr Jenner inoculated several persons with cow-pox matter, in a way similar to the usual mode of inoculation for the small-pox. From these cases, he learned that a fever arose from about the 7th to the 9th day after inoculation, and continued one or two days only; and that a pustulous eruption is produced in the parts inoculated: which is a more slight affection than the cow-pox in the hands, when produced in the natural way. In course, not one died of the inoculated cow-pox. Neither were any of the persons who had been so inoculated found capable, after repeated trials, of taking the small-pox by inoculation, nor in the natural way: but it was found that persons were still susceptible of the cow-pox, whether they had gone through that disorder already in the natural way, or by inoculation. Hence, then, appears one of the most curious, and perhaps most important facts relative to the animal constitution: namely, that, by having had a disease produced in it by a given specific infection, viz. the cow-pox matter, it is so altered as to be incapable of having a disease produced in it by another specific infection, namely, the variolous; and yet the former specific infection, that of the cow-pox, can again and again produce the cow pox. *Physiologists* will doubtless attend to this new fact; especially to observe whether there be in Nature other analogous facts: but, be that as it may, this one discovery opens a new field of inquiry into the animal constitution, of which

various ufes may hereafter be made. The immediate application of it is, plainly, to inoculate for the cow-pox inftead of the fmall pox; and the advantages of this new mode are: 1, No perfon dies of the cow-pox; 2dly, It produces no eruption except on the parts inoculated; 3dly, The fever is lighter, for the moft part, than in the inoculated fmall pox; 4thly, It is not probable that any other diforder is excited by the cow-pox, as is the cafe in certain conftitutions after the inoculated. It muft be confeffed, however, that much more experience is required than we have hitherto had, to determine the truth of the laft ftated advantage: efpecially from the inoculation of infants; on account of the improbability of their fkin rendering them liable to very extenfive erythematous inflammation.

That the infectious matter of the cow-pox is a fpecific poifon, and not (as fome fuppofe) merely putrid animal matter, feems proved from the effect being the fame, when produced by inoculation with matter from the human fubject, as that which is produced by cow-pox matter from the third, fourth, or fifth human fubject in fucceffion from the cow. Indeed, the difference in the appearance of the local puftulous eruption in the cow-pox is fufficient to fhew the fpecific nature of the inoculated matter.

As the cow-pox is not propagated by vapour, nor by effluvia, nor by minute particles of matter adhering to cloaths, furniture, the paper of letters, &c. the happieft conftquences may refult from its inoculation in fociety inftead of the fmall pox: but, while it appears that perfons who have gone through the former are incapable of taking the latter, the converfe does not feem to be true, or at leaft is not conftantly the cafe: for although it feems probable that thofe who have had the fmall pox are not fubjects of the cow-pox, as thofe who have not had the former difeafe, yet they are not exempt.

Cows are liable to the cow-pox more than once, but they ufually have it more fully on the fecond infection.

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POETRY

POETRY.

ODE

FOR THE YEAR M,DCC,XCIX.

BY H. J. PYE, ESQ. POET LAUREAT.

THOUGH the dun mist and driving rack
A while may hide the orb of day,
Aloft he keeps his radiant track,
Toiling with undiminish'd ray;
And soon before his gorgeous face
The evanescent clouds retire,
Then, bursting forth, to mortal gaze
The glorious orb with keener blaze,
Bids with their force the dazzled gaze,
Bowing with flame divine the empyreal fields of light.

So while the lowering clouds of Fate
O'er Europe's torpid regions spread,
They fear'd enthron'd in gloomy state,
To hang o'er Albion's drooping head;
Supreme in glory yet she stood
Superior to the vapoury flood.
And soon, before her kindling eye,
The scatter'd clouds dispersing fly,
In awful glory while appear,
Red with vindictive flame, the terrors of her spear.

Around her coast, fenc'd by her guardian train,
Around Ierne's kindred shores,
Mark! foul invasion to her baffled train
In yells of desperation roars.
Along the hostile deep they vainly try
From Britain's thundering barks to fly;
Their fleets, the Victor's trophy, captured ride,
In future battles doom'd to conquer on our side.

See where deathless bards of yore,
Singing to the silver tide,
Wafted loud from shore to shore
Grecian art and Roman pride.
Say, when Carthage learn'd to vail,
To mightier foes her lofty sail,
Say, when the Man of Athens broke,
With daring prow the Median Tyrant's yoke,
Saw ye so bold, so free a band,
As Nelson led by Nilus' strand;
What time, at George's high behest,
Dread in terrific vengeance dress'd,
Fierce as the whirlwind's stormy course
They pour'd on Gallia's guilty force;
And Egypt saw Britannia's flag unfurl'd
Wave high its Victor Cross, Deliverer of the World!

See floating friendly in the wind,
The Russian Eagle with the Crescent join'd,
And shall on Earth Rome's cowering Eagle lie
With ruffled plumage and with languid eye?
Imperial Austria rouse! While Albion's fleet
Sweeps fierce oppression from the main,
Send forth thy legions on the embatt'l'd plain,
'Till Europe joyful turn to find defeat;
Strike with united arm the blow,
Lay the gigantic Boaster low;
O'er your astonish'd fields who trod,
Deforming Nature, and defying God!
So shall returning peace again,
Delight the renovated plain;
Peace, on the basis firm of faith restor'd,
Wrung from Oppression's arm by Valour's conquering sword.

CORIN'S PROFESSION.

OR THE SONG OF CONSTANCY.

By *P. Pindar, Esq.*

NOW, Joan, we are married—and now let me say,
Tho' both are in youth, yet that youth will decay;
In our journey thro' life, my dear Joan, I suppose,
We shall oft meet a bramble, and sometimes a rose.

When a cloud on this forehead shall darken my day,
Thy sunshine of sweetness must smile it away;
And when the dull vapour shall dwell upon thine,
To chace it, the labour and triumph be mine.

Let us wish not for wealth to devour and consume;
For luxury's but a short road to the tomb:
Let us sigh not for grandeur; for, trust me, my Joan,
The keenest of cares owes its birth to a throne.

Thou shalt milk our one Cow; and, if Fortune pursue,
In good time, with her blessing, my Joan shall milk two.
I will till our small field, while my prattle and song
Shall charm as I drive the bright ploughshare along.

When finish'd the day, by the fire we'll regale,
And treat our good neighbours at eve, with our ale;

For,

For, Joan, who could wish for self only to live?
One bleſſing of life, my dear girl, is to give.
E'en the Red-breaſt and Wren ſhall not ſeek us in vain,
While thou haſt a crumb, or thy Corin a grain;
Not only their ſongs will they pour from the groves,
But yield by example ſweet leſſons of love.
Tho' thy beauty muſt fade, yet thy youth I'll remember,
That thy May was my own, when thou ſheweſt December.
And when age to my head ſhall its winter impart,
The ſummer of love ſhall repoſe in my heart!

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HAPPY is the heart that does not ſigh for peace,
That vows unknow'd infernal Diſcord ceaſe!
That does not pray the ſtrife of arms may ceaſe,
And vengeful powers their mutual wrath appeaſe.
If ſuch there be "whoſe breaſts the Furies fleel,"
To whom the ſtiffs grief alone is known,
O let them turn to heaven!—and aſk to feel
That generous ſorrow which is not their own!
Let them that virtuous charity implore,
Which to relieve withholds from Mercy's eyes,
Which wafts Compaſſion's ſigh from ſhore to ſhore,
And on Misfortune builds her choiceſt fame.
What ſtreams of blood from wars dread conflicts flow;
What crime eſcapes their ſanguinary ſtains!
Have they not oy'd the unmilled northern ſnow,
And ſoil'd the eternal green of Aſia's plains?
Have they not ſtretch'd the parching arid lands
Of Afric's drear uncultivated coaſt?
Have they not ruſh'd impetuous o'er the lands
Where weſtern ſhores more fertile treaſures boaſt?
But chief in Europe flow'd and ever flows,
The hateful current of wars crimſon tide:
Where e'er ports heedleſs of a nation's woes,
Unſheath the ſword to guard the legal pride.
Trophies of victory ſurround the throne;
Monarch's ſurvey them with deluded eyes:
Loſt in the pageant is the people's groan;
Humanity before ambition flies.
In vain for Europe heaven kind love diſplays,
Bids milder ſuns from milder ſkies deſcend;
In vain bids health await theſe temperate rays,
And beauty's colour with the treaſure blend.
In vain bids arts improve the docile mind,
And ſpread around the charms of poliſh'd life;
While barb'rous laws with civil arts combin'd,
Promote the ſcience of inhuman ſtrife.
Let ſavage nature beaſts ferocious ſway!
Bear fight with Bear on Lithuania's ſtrand!
Let Tigers on the Ganges ſeek for prey,
And herd together in a murd'rous band;
But man's kind heart abhors each ſavage rule,
By Nature's laws to tenderneſs inclin'd,
Train'd in Philanthropy's cementing ſchool,
The chain of love in bondage holds mankind.
Impoſing war in Honour's garb array'd,
With Glory's phantoms noble minds miſleads;
Hence many a virtuous breaſt by theſe betray'd,
Exults in ſlaughter, and for ſlaughter pleads.
Yet let the victor give one penſive thought
Amid the clamour of the vulgar praiſe;
Let him reflect how dearly fame was bought,
Nor triumph in the blood-beſprinkled bays.
From Nature's gentleſt boſoms Fancy ſtrays
O'er the wide havock of contending bands;
Her glowing pencil each ſad ſcene portrays.
The murder'd legions and the pillag'd lands.
The Widow's tears, the orphan's ruin'd ſtate,
The lover's hopes and fears alternate toſs,
The aged parent bow'd by Sorrows weight,
Courting the grave where ſorrow will be loſt.
Perchance two lovely youths from him were torn,
His age's ſolace and his boſom's pride:
Perchance in woeful concert daughters mourn,
The love-lorn virgin and the widow'd bride.

While

While Rapine's cruel unrelenting hand,
Beggars the tenant of each little field;
Bids the poor cottager resign his land,
And his reap'd harvest to a stranger yield.

Bids hostile troops invade the cultur'd soil,
And desperate steeds o'erwhelm the bearded grain,
Rend'ring abortive agriculture's toil,
And vain the labours of the peasant train.

What numbers seek in these distast'rous times,
The sad protection of an alien shore!
"Lead discontented steps in foreign climes,"
And sigh for regions they shall view no more,

From fond domestic ties afar remov'd,
Corroding Care their absent state attends:
Some pictur'd fear pursues a best belov'd,
And memory trembles at the name of *friends*.

But cease, my Muse—this train of sorrow cease!
Ah, bid thy lyre such mournful sounds forego!
Reverse thy theme to images of Peace,
And let her scenes contrast the scenes of woe.

With livelier colours see the prospect beam!
Discord relenting turns her darts aside,
Regenerate men in union's christian stream,
Fondly together thro' life's ocean glide.

Then vanish arts of war—no more shall man
For murder's purpose wake the ingenious mind;
No more fell instruments of death shall plan;
And turn inventive thought to harm mankind.

Then Commerce, source of industry and wealth,
Shall waft her treasures safely o'er the main;
Shall yield those treasures undebas'd by stealth,
And crown the fair pursuit of honest gain.

Joyful each vessel shall expand the sail,
Heed'less of foes if winds and waves subside;
No cannon blending with the tempest's gale,
Shall swell the fury of the foaming tide.

Then Agriculture smiling from the shore,
Shall raise her banners on each fruitful plain;
Her fertile valleys destin'd now no more
To feed the robber and entomb the slain.

Her sons new lab'rers of the peaceful field,
The fearful instruments of war resign;
More pleas'd the tools of husbandry to wield,
Than on their brows the sanguine wreath to twine.

Britain shall rise in new refulgent day,
And brightest rays in her horizon shine;
Morals reform'd shall rule with milder sway;
And Genius all her schools of art refine.

O Peace! celestial guest, from Heaven descend!
Shew to the world thy reconciling face;
Let every knee before thy altar bend,
And thou the universe at length embrace.

The following old Scottish Song is from a MS. collection of poems written and collected by Andrew Symson, Schoolmaster at Stirling, A. D. 1690.

MRS F.'s DELIGHT,

COMPOSED BY HER HUSBAND.

SOME men they do delight in hounds,
And some in hawkes take pleasure;
Some do rejoice in war and wounds,
And thereby gain great treasure.

Some men do love on sea to sail;
And some rejoice in riding.
But all their judgments do them fail—
O! no such joy as chiding.

When in the morn I ope my eyes
To entertain the day,
Before my husband e'en can rise,
I chide him—then I pray.

When I at table take my place,
Whatever be the meat,
I first do chide—and then say grace,
If so dispos'd to eat.

Too fat, too lean, too hot, too cold,
I ever do complain,
Too raw, too roast, too young, too old—
Faults I will find or feign.

Let it be flesh, or fowl, or fish,
It never shall be said,
But I'll find fault with meat, or dish,
With master, or with maid.

But when I go to bed at night,
I heartily do weep,
That I must part with my delight—
I cannot scold and sleep.

However this doth mitigate,
And much abate my sorrow,
That though to night it be too late,
I'll early scold to-morrow.

BRITISH

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Income Tax Bill.

Dec. 14. In the appendix to laſt volume we detailed, pretty fully, the very able ſpeech of the miniſter when he introduced this important article of taxation, as likewiſe the opinions of ſeveral members concerning it. We come now to follow it through the different ſtages, and to collect the opinions of the members regarding it. In the abridged account of the proceedings of Parliament, which our limits conſtrain us to give, it will not be poſſible to notice the debates and arguments which aroſe on every clauſe of this bill in the committee. We ſhall, however, ſtate with all poſſible clearneſs, and with the utmoſt impartiality, what ſeem to us the moſt important arguments on the moſt material clauſes.

Mr Pitt moved the order of the day for going into a committee, to take this bill into conſideration.

Sir John Sinclair obſerved, that if it was neceſſary to raiſe the ſupplies, or any part of them, within the year, and that property was the true criterion of contribution, the queſtion would be, whether it was better to impoſe it on the capital or on income? In his opinion the right mode would be, to raiſe part on the one, and part on the other, ſo that the man poſſeſſed of both, though he pay moſt, would pay but his due proportion. He put the caſes of two perſons, one of whom receives an income of 600l. a year from the profeſſion of law, and the other a ſimilar ſum annually from his dividends in the funds. By this tax the poor unfortunate lawyer's income is diminiſhed 60l. whereas the ſtock-holder, by ſelling out a trifle, loſes but 5l. or 6l. The tax, therefore, he contended, in order to be fair, ought certainly to be amended. The national income was ſtated to be 120 millions annually, and the point to be conſidered was, whether the poor could afford to pay 10l. per cent. out of it, in addition to their other taxes? There were three claſſes to be affected by it—1ſt, the miſer that had already ſaved—2d, thoſe who had not ſaved hitherto, but who would do ſo in future—3d, thoſe who have not, who will not, or who cannot ſave. The means of the miſer, he found, could not be aſcertained; but ſuppoſing there be 3000 miſers in this country, and their incomes be three millions annually, the produce of their tenth to the revenue would be no more than 300l. The ſecond claſs, of thoſe who would now begin to ſave, he believed would be very numerous; but the revenue muſt proportionably ſuffer by theſe ſavings in its exciſe and cuſtoms. As to the third claſs, which will not or cannot ſave, they muſt either take the tax out of their capital, or borrow the money, and pay it as they can. We had no right, he thought, to tax Iriſh or Weſt-India property, except for the protection of Ireland or the Weſt Indies, as theſe countries themſelves alſo taxed the property they contained. Though he oppoſed this meaſure, he did not think himſelf bound to propoſe any ſubſtitute, but he thought the beſt method would be, to appoint a Select Committee to conſider of a better plan; and he ſuggeſted that a great part of the ſum might be raiſed by economical arrangements. He objected to it alſo as being a reſource for the profuſion of the public money, and waging perpetual war.

Mr Steuart acknowledged that the preſent, like every other meaſure of taxation, was liable to many objections. He had oppoſed the contribution act of laſt year, but he now expreſſed his ſatisfaction at its having paſſed, as it ſerved to ripen the public mind, and reconcile it to the burdens neceſſary to be ſuſtained. It was an error to ſuppoſe that the evil to be complained of lay in the arrangement of the objects of taxation, in their collection, or even in the taxes themſelves—The evil was in the war, which was forced upon us by an aggreſſion which we could not help, and for the exigencies of which it was therefore incumbent upon us to provide. If a loan was made for the whole ſum, a much greater quantity of new taxes muſt unavoidably be impoſed; and theſe, by touching conſumption, would be more felt by the lower order of the people, than the tax upon income, which did not reach

reach any man who did not poſſeſs 60l. a year. For his own part, being convinced that the adoption of the preſent plan would be productive of advantages, as great as the diſadvantages of which its rejection would be pregnant, he would cordially give it his ſupport.

Mr M. A. Taylor pledged himſelf, ſhould the Houſe conſent to a recommitment of the bill, to bring forward ſuch amendments as would be worthy of their attention. He agreed that the tax of laſt year had been ſhamefully and ſcandalouſly evaded. Mr Taylor went into a variety of calculations to prove that there were ſome deſcriptions of a very inferior income, who would pay by the bill, as it now ſtood, 35 and even 40 per cent. It operated as a check to commercial vigour and active induſtry. Thoſe who ſtood forward as the advocates of this act, ought to reflect on the cauſes which chiefly produced the late diſtractions in Ireland. This act might drive the landed proprietor to expend his money in town, becauſe he would be unable to keep up his uſual eſtabliſhment in the country.—The deſertion of Ireland, by the great landed proprietors, had greatly tended to produce all the miſchiefs which it had lately unhappily experienced; and he hoped that Gentlemen, on this ſide the water would profit by the example. He thought it his duty to give his negative to the bill.

The Solicitor General believed, that the contribution act had been in too many inſtances evaded; but the preſent meaſure would in its effects certainly correct this evil in a great degree. The propriety of raiſing the ſupplies within the year was now pretty generally admitted; and it ſhould be recollected, that borrowing was a new method of providing for the current expences, whereas the cuſtom of doing it by ſupply was of great antiquity. The reaſon of this was obvious. In former reigns, it had been always difficult to borrow money by loan: The queſtion now was, whether it be not prudent to check the funding ſyſtem for a time, by raiſing the ſupplies within the year, and providing for the payment of the national debt. He vindicated the deſcending ſcale of taxation. He conſidered a tax upon income, as much fairer than a tax upon property, and as to what had been ſaid of taxing expenditure inſtead of income, he ſhould merely remark, that the contributions towards poors' rates, &c. were taxes on income. With reſpect to a tax upon capital, this had been attempted in the reign of Queen Anne, but was found productive of great inequalities; and although the proviſions of this act were much more objectionable than thoſe of the bill that evening under diſcuſſion, it was not thought unconſtitutional, being abandoned merely becauſe it was found ineffectual.—It was certainly true, that inequalities would ariſe under the preſent meaſure; but how, in any ſcheme of finance, were theſe to be entirely avoided? It had been ſaid that the people could not bear the tax. Laſt year had proved the contrary; for many country gentlemen had voluntarily aſſeſſed themſelves more than one-tenth of their income. Under theſe circumſtances it was with no ſmall pleaſure that he ſupported the motion.

Sir William Young conſidered the preſent demand upon the people of England juſtified by the neceſſity there was of continuing a war, that he hoped would ultimately terminate in repreſſing and limiting the inordinate ambition of a power the moſt audacious and tyrannical that ever exiſted in the world. He could not ſee that any diſcloſure of their property, to which men would be liable by the bill, could much or generally injure even the trader and ſpeculator: and with reſpect to ſome fears which had been ſtated, that the tax would occaſion the emigration of our coloniſts, he (who had property in the Weſt Indies and America) could aſſure the Houſe, that not a bill, bond, or other valuable document, can be executed in the colonies without being regiſtered, whence would appear the utter impracticability of evading the tax.—And ſurely the coloniſts, of all others, could leaſt complain of any tax, the object of which ſhould be general defence, as what defended England would in its effect defend them. He thought it indecent to call the power of the Commiſſioners an inquiſitorial power; it was only a power of enquiry, and this ſubject to limitations that ought to quiet every honeſt mind. This meaſure, like every other, was to be judged by compariſon; and there were

but two ways of collecting and raiſing a great tax—by force and contribution. The laſt was the one now reſorted to, and he need not ſay the beſt.

Mr Elliſon ſaid, the preſent bill was only to correct the defects, and remove the inequalities of the act of laſt year. If the funding ſyſtem was wrong, it ſhould be departed from, and as the proverb had it—"Better late than never." He applauded the Miniſters, as having met uncommon danger with uncommon fortitude. They were well ſeconded by the ardour of our ſeamen, troops, and militia. From the higheſt to the loweſt, all felt as Engliſhmen. Every man was willing to pay the ſalvage of his preſervation. He could not endure to hear this called a meaſure of requiſition on the part of Miniſters, which was, in fact, a ſolemn act of the Legiſlature.

Sir Francis Baring thought the preſent caſe more liable to evaſion than the tax of laſt year, and therefore objected to it. For he was convinced that a tax on income might in many ways be evaded, while the criterion of the other was certain and tried. Where the man of large fortune could be reached, he thought it would be right that a proportionate tax ſhould be impoſed; but where men's fortunes could not be reached, without great difficulty, perhaps enquiry ought to be avoided. He did not ſee how it was poſſible, if a ſurcharge were made, to avoid the examination of men's books; but he could aſſure the Houſe, that it would take Commiſſioners ſix months at leaſt to come to the bottom of ſome merchant's books. But it was not, he thought, poſſible to prevent evaſion in the commercial world. For every man engaged in extenſive commerce, indeed almoſt all merchants, only entruſted to their clerks to poſt up and carry on their accounts from year to year, while the employer diſſects every account or calculation to find his profits. In his opinion the idea of the tax had been taken from the Dutch, who had never required an oath, but the Engliſh merchants would by this bill be required to give multiplied oaths.

Mr William Smith thought it a meaſure of novelty and magnitude; but his objection was not to the principle of the bill, if that was to raiſe the ſupplies within the year, and if the ſum was to be ten millions, ſo far the meaſure was wiſe. But in this he conſidered himſelf as making no conceſſion. This bill, profeſſedly brought in to aſſeſs men equally, is to make no diſtinction between the man of certain, and of fluctuating, income; between the induſtrious and the idle; it is a ſweeping bill, that muſt bear down all ranks and degrees of men before it. He ſhould be glad to know, whether a man of 500l. a year, who ſhould ſpend his fortune in bed, was to be taxed only at the rate the tax will bear on a merchant of the ſame income? If equality, it muſt be a tax on induſtry, while it will give a bounty to indolence. In the caſe of perſons who have Exchequer annuities, they could, perhaps, get only three or four years purchaſe, while a man whoſe income was derived from land would get 25 years purchaſe. To a man of 500l. a year, the difference ariſing in this way would be immenſe. Suppoſing again, a man having an eſtate of 500l. a year entailed, which he could not ſell and divide among his children, but willing to make ſome proviſion for them from his ſavings, if he lays by 400l. he is liable to this tax. This and other topics would, he hoped, be diſcuſſed fully, if the bill ſhould go to a Committee, where it would occur to the Houſe that ſome regulation ſhould be made, more fairly to aſſeſs the income of the man who does nothing for the ſtate, and the man who does—between the bee and the drone—the rich man and the poor. It had been ſaid the people could not ſupport the tax. He did not know what they could ſupport; but certainly they had ſupported a great deal. He hoped the people of England were neither able nor willing to ſupport an inquiſition into their moſt ſecret affairs, to have the ſource of their credit, the relicks of their independence polluted and profaned by a band of aſſeſſors marſhalled in the ſervice of a prodigal Adminiſtration. If they could endure all this, their ſpirit muſt indeed be broken, and they could not be qualified to make any other reſiſtance. Mr Smith made ſome obſervations, confirming the ſtatements of Sir Francis Baring, as to the mode of taxation among the Dutch. Was there any thing in the world ſo clear or palpable as the inequality of two perſons receiving an equal

equal income, one from a landed eſtate, the other from trade.

Mr Dundas ſaid, that he ſhould not trouble the Houſe long on this ſubject, as gentlemen ſeemed to be agreed on the principle. The objections made by the two laſt ſpeakers, only applied to the bill as affecting men in a commercial line. The defects which had been ſtated in the bill were certainly ſuch as were remediable in a Committee. The general arguments againſt this bill were certainly a libel on every ſyſtem of finance which had hitherto been adopted in this country. If a tax was laid on any article of conſumption, on ſugar, for inſtance, was the Houſe ever called upon to conſider out of what income this duty was to be paid, or whether the payer was a bee or a drone—whether he was active or lazy? There could be no claſſification under ſuch circumſtances; every thing muſt be done by general rules. The gentleman who has ſpoken laſt had dealt much in general invective, the end of which was to intimate, that every officer under Government muſt, of courſe, be an inſtrument of oppreſſion. This could not be juſtified by any man who was aware of the practice adopted in collecting the revenue. It was agreed, however, by all who had ſpoken, that the principle of this bill was founded in juſtice and propriety. If they would adhere to this opinion, he pledged himſelf that no clauſe not eſſential to the bill ſhould remain, if it was ſuppoſed to excite agitation or uneaſineſs. The people, he truſted, were both able and willing to meet the preſent tax. It had met with the approbation of the citizens of Edinburgh, Glaſgow, and Liverpool, amongſt whom there were no contractors or loan-mongers. Why then diſcredit the ſolemn reſolve of the merchants in the city? The people were able and willing to pay the preſent tax, and he doubted not but that it would be well received.

Mr Martin ſaid, he had no objections to the principle of the bill, but there was much of offenſive matter in its details.

Mr Pitt. It is ſome ſatisfaction to me, that I have no reaſon to think any Gentleman objects to the principles of the bill, but the Hon. Baronet who opened the debate. I have conſequently to oppoſe, on that ground, but one ſolitary antagoniſt, and I muſt ſay, that however great that Hon. Gentleman's authority may be, he has not ſtated one ſingle argument in ſupport of his oppoſition. Other gentlemen who are liberal enough to admit the propriety of adopting the principle of raiſing the ſupplies, or a conſiderable portion of them within the year, feel themſelves nevertheleſs at liberty to endeavour to ſhut the door againſt all further inveſtigation of the meaſure, which in the outſet meets their concurrence and approbation, and peremptorily and decidedly oppoſe the proſecution of a plan, which they admit to be neceſſary for the ſalvation of the country. This they attempt to do, not upon the grounds of its final impracticability, not upon argument applying to the queſtion, but by conjuring up every thing which their ingenuity could ſupply, or which they could ranſack from their imaginations, without adverting to what is contained in the bill. The meaſure propoſed goes to affect, in a juſt and equal manner, the commerce of the country, all proprietors of land, all on whom the commerce and œconomy of the country depend, all thoſe through whom the adminiſtration of juſtice takes place, all to whom the protection of the poor attaches, and all who form the great and important links in the vaſt chain of ſociety. It goes effectually to do away that light, bending, flippant theory of the moment, which repreſents them as not affected in proportion to the ſhare they have in the common intereſt and in the common danger. The Surveyors have been called ſpies—a language which, whoever uſes, only ſtrives to bring into diſcredit and diſgrace thoſe officers, without whom the public ſervice muſt be totally at a ſtand. The fact is, that no ſurcharge is carried into effect by the Surveyor; the obſervations of that officer are merely ſubmitted to the judgment and deciſion of the Commiſſioners, who may, as they think proper, after a full and impartial review of the circumſtances of the caſe, reject or confirm the ſurcharge. It has been urged, that an oath is not ſufficient to enforce the collection of the tax; yet the Surveyor is the only perſon bound by oath, as that taken by the perſon is altogether voluntary. And ſurely there is a little difference between the perſon ac-

quitting himself of a task in which his own interest is materially involved, and another acting solely from views dictated by his duty. If we will not have recourse in all cases to the oath of the party, we must at least endeavour to obtain some particular statement of income, and the first step of the present bill gives, it is contended, power to the Surveyors to search into records, books, and accounts of all public companies. But they only possess that power of inspecting books which any others might exercise; and they have no access to records or papers, but what every other person from curiosity or any other motive may claim. This objection to the bill, like many others, is much misconceived and misrepresented. With respect to what ought to be taken as the criterion of the tax, the gentlemen who oppose the measure have dwelt upon a great variety of objections to shew the inequality of a general tax upon income. If we did not tax all in the same proportion, we should leave some inequality; and if we were to proceed in conformity to the spirit of the objection, we should tax the landed man greatly, and the industrious lightly, against all the experience which have occurred during a period of 400 years. But, Sir, let me ask, where is this inequality to be found? Is the activity of the mechanic, is the industry of the manufacturer, of less importance or less comprehended in the general welfare of the country than the more permanent interest of the landed proprietor? But some gentlemen would have the tax laid not on income, but on capital. I would wish to know by what means the amount of capital or landed property could be estimated? Gentlemen, when they consider this subject, would do well to ascertain the legal description of different estates. They will then see how great a difference there is in their value. A life-estate would sell for ten years purchase, and a fee-simple estate for thirty. Are we then to enter into unusual distinctions, and to estimate the different taxes which must be paid out of these two descriptions of property, according to the sums they would sell for? On what principle can such a position be maintained? What is our object now, or what is it that we intend to do by the bill before the House? It is nothing more or less than that of raising a supply of ten millions within the year; and how is that to be raised, except from the general income of the year. Are you to raise it by laying a burden on the descendants of landed gentlemen, by laying a mortgage on their posterity? There seems, therefore, to be a total misconception of the tax; which is only a tax for the year; and a fee-simple estate produces an income only by the year. If we shall have the courage to adopt it and carry it into effect in our own time, it will in other times, and in future emergencies, be always resorted to as a measure the most conducive to the general good of mankind; and so often as it shall recur, so often will the permanent property of any man be liable to the same taxation, while the property still continues in the possession of his descendant; the same family, therefore, may be said to be under continuation of this tax. As to the income which a man makes by his industry, and out of which he is to lay up a certain sum yearly, how can we make a distinction in this case? Whatever these inequalities may be, have we the means to correct them? We must take the situations of men as we have found them. No human legislation can regulate differently. The clear principle appears to me to be this. That one rule of privation applies equally to all that income, of whatever income it may be, which any man receives within the year; and whether a man is in the habit of saving a portion of his income, or spending it all, he shall have one tenth less to save—one tenth less to spend in a year. Any other fanciful system which we may be called on to adopt, is beyond our depth, and may lead us into inconveniences which we cannot now foresee; and instead of consulting the interest of individuals, you will only counteract the principles upon which their real prosperity is founded. There is one circumstance for which a provision is made in the bill; persons who are anxious to lay up a provision for their offspring, have no surer way of doing so than by making a small insurance which is to be deducted from the tax on their income. This must at once annihilate all the arguments that have been urged on that head. It is my wish that this measure may be carried

fed over again; for I am ſure, that the oftener it is diſcuſſed, the more will gentlemen be impreſſed with the propriety and fairneſs of the plan as it now ſtands. I feel its importance ſo much, that I would not hazard an idea to which I have not given the fulleſt and moſt mature conſideration. I ſhall juſt make an obſervation on what has been ſaid concerning the ſuppoſed emigration to which this meaſure would give riſe. There have been two kinds of emigration mentioned, that of people leaving the kingdom for the purpoſe of ſettling in a foreign country, and that of perſons quitting their reſidence in the country to come and live in great towns. As to the firſt, our ſituation, thank God, is happily ſuch, and ſuch is unhappily the ſituation of other countries, that I do not believe it is the difference of 10 or 20 per cent. that would induce any man to go away out of England for the purpoſe of ſettling in any other country. With reſpect to the ſecond kind of emigration, I ſhall make no other obſervation upon it than that of reverting to what gentlemen on the other ſide ſeemed to have forgotten. They forget, Sir, that when the bill of laſt year was introduced, all theſe dreadful conſequences were then held out, juſt as they are now, and not one of the predictions of theſe gentlemen has been verified.

The Houſe then divided for the reconſideration of the bill.——For it 183: Againſt, 17—Majority 166.

17. *Mr Pitt* moved that the Houſe, in a Committee, ſhould reſume the further conſideration of this bill.

Sir William Pulteney was of opinion the meaſure of the aſſeſſed taxes laſt year had not been fairly tried, and might ſtill be acted upon with ſucceſs. However he might approve of raiſing the ſupplies within the year, the aſſeſſed taxes, which attached only on viſible property, were in his mind more conſtitutional, becauſe the preſent bill did not propoſe to tax men according to the appearance of property, but the final end of it was, that a man muſt give evidence of the amount of his property, by laying open his whole affairs. It was ſaid that the aſſeſſed taxes had been evaded; but he muſt doubt this to the extent alledged, for of the 7 millions the Miniſter took credit for, for this tax, 4½ had been collected, which, added to the two millions of voluntary contribution, made the defalcation very little indeed. This, to his mind, was a proof that the aſſeſſed taxes were not fairly tried.

The clauſe for repealing the whole of the contribution act of laſt ſeſſion being read,

Mr Tierney contended, that by agreeing to that clauſe, Parliament would be guilty of a breach of faith with the gentlemen who contracted laſt year for the loan of 15 millions. For as that clauſe went to do away the whole of the duties, to be raiſed by aſſeſſment, and as a conſiderable part of theſe duties, to the amount of 8 millions, were eventually to be applied to the liquidation of the national debt, they were deceived with reſpect to the advantages which they expected to derive from that meaſure, and under the impreſſion of which they had acted in concluding the loan.

Mr Pitt replied, that even admitting all the force of the Hon. Gentleman's argument, the objection could in no reſpect be maintained, if the new duties, ſtill more productive, which were propoſed to be levied by the preſent bill, were applied to more advantage in the liquidation of the national debt. The Hon. Gentleman was alſo miſtaken with reſpect to the matter of fact, for no agreement of the nature alluded to, had been entered into with the gentlemen who contracted for the loan of laſt year. It was only propoſed that 8 millions ſhould be applied in buying up part of the old debt, or in ſubſcribing to any new loan, and that object would be completely anſwered by ſubſtituting a more productive one.

The clauſe then received ſome verbal amendments, and was agreed to.

When the clauſe for taxing, in an equal manner, all perſons poſſeſſed of lands, tenements, and hereditaments, of life and temporary eſtates, and every kind of income ariſing from perſonal property; and from trades, profeſſions, offices, employments and vocations, was read:

Mr Wigley ſaid, that he ſhould oppoſe it in it's preſent ſtate, as it did not make thoſe differences which appear neceſſary between the nature of property. There was, in his mind no juſtice in impoſing an equal tax on a perſon poſſeſſed of an eſtate in fee, and

on another who only had an annuity. The capital of the firſt was untouched, while the latter had only his annuity to reſort to. He would ſuppoſe that a eſtate in fee ſimple would ſell at 24 years purchaſe, yet a life eſtate, which could not be valued ſo high as at 12, would be ſubject to an equal impoſition. Upon theſe grounds, he ſhould move, as an amendment, with a view of introducing certain modifications, "Whether any ſuch income as aforeſaid ſhall ſtand part of this clauſe."

Mr Pitt obſerved, that the arguments of the Hon. Gentleman were totally deſtructive of the principle of the bill. The great object of the bill was to raiſe a part of the ſupplies within the year; and it conſequently followed, that to raiſe it from funds that occurred within the year, was a principle fair, ſimple, and uniform. The capital property of the perſons who were to be affected by the bill, was totally out of the queſtion. If the diſtinctions advanced were to take place, the greateſt inconveniences and hardſhips would follow; for ſhould a perſon, holding an eſtate in fee be bound to pay the tax in the proportion of 3 to 1, to another deriving his profits from a life eſtate or profeſſional exertions, and die within the year, his heir would be ſubject to a ſimilar rate of taxation, which might in the courſe of two years load the fee ſimple eſtate with an incumbrance amounting to a proportion of ſix times what was paid by one poſſeſſed of a life or temporary property. With reſpect to the mode of aſſurance, it was the cheapeſt, the ſureſt, and the moſt moderate way for a man who had a family to provide for. He begged to add, that if Gentlemen were to begin entering into the capital of property, he defied all the lawyers and all the calculators of the country to deviſe a juſt and accurate ſcale by which it would be aſcertained.

Mr Alderman Lyſhington obſerved, that the more induſtrious a man was, the more he was taxed; and if his talk and the fluctuations of his profits were conſidered, it would be found that he was taxed in a double ratio to the landed proprietor. He thought ſome diſtinction ought to be made alſo between income ariſing from the permanent funds, and that ariſing from ſhort annuities.

The Solicitor General admitted that many hardſhips might exiſt under the preſent bill; but he ſaw no way of avoiding theſe particular inconveniences without totally changing its principle, and converting it into a tax upon capital and not upon income. It was the conſideration of the complicated nature of capital, that induced Statesmen to abandon it as a ſubject of taxation, and to adopt the baſis of income. The numerous taxes which had for a century paſt been levied upon conſumption in this country, were in reality to be conſidered as impoſed upon income; and the land tax, about the end of the laſt century, conſtituted a real tax of 4s. in the pound upon all landed income, or in other words a full fifth of the whole rental, whereas the preſent only went to demand a tenth.

Mr Tierney oppoſed the principle of the bill, he was not averſe to Magiſtrates poſſeſſing the means of what had been called innocent hoſpitality, but when he ſaw the widow's mite wreſted from her, he muſt conſider that hoſpitality as waſteful gluttony. He thought the emoluments of the great churchmen ought to be taxed at a much higher rate than that of the poorer, who had already no more than was barely neceſſary for their ſubſiſtence. He then argued at ſome length upon the inequality of the tax, which he humourouſly illuſtrated with this obſervation. Suppoſe, ſaid he, it was propoſed to take away a tenth from every man's height, let him be what ſize he might; you take away a tenth from a man ſix feet high, and you leave a man ſtill of a tolerable good ſize, fit for all the offices of man.—You take a tenth from a man five feet high, and you leave a reaſonable ſized being.—But when you take a tenth from one who is only about four feet, or hardly that, you will leave a figure only fit to be exhibited among the other curioſities of nature at Exeter' Change. Or taking a tenth of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's eloquence, you leave him enough for ordinary purpoſes—but to take a tenth from ſome perſons would leave them ſcarce any at all.

Mr Rob. Thornton profeſſed himſelf highly delighted at ſeeing the ſpirit with which this meaſure was adopted, in which, however, he ſhould be glad to ſee ſome modifications in favour of widows, poor clergymen, &c.

Sir

Sir G. Page Turner claimed to himself the merit of having been the firſt who propoſed to the Houſe a tax on income, and particularly that ariſing from the funds. The war could not be carried on without money, and this was the faireſt way of raiſing it.

A diviſion took place,

For the clauſe, 123—Againſt it, 9.

The Chairmen after this reported progreſs, and the Committee was ordered to ſit again to-morrow.

19. *Mr Secretary Dundas* brought up an order of Council reſpecting certain accounts of exports and imports, as likewiſe a liſt of the names of ſtate priſoners committed under ſuſpenſion of the Habeas Corpus act, which was ordered to lie on the table for the peruſal of the Members.

Land-Tax Redemption Bill.

Sir John Sinclair oppoſed the third reading of the bill. Had the meaſure been eſtabliſhed upon proper principles, and duly carried into effect, there would not now be occaſion for bringing forward the tax on income. The land tax ought to be ſold only for *ready money*, and on no account whatever for *ſtock*. Fewer bills had been preſented to the Houſe this ſeſſion than in any former, for the purpoſes of local improvement, and he certainly ſhould oppoſe the motion in every ſtage, as inveterately hoſtile to national and agricultural improvement, and as compelling people to become the proprietors of ſtock rather than of land. Inſtead of boaſting of their agricultural knowledge, country gentlemen would now plume themſelves upon their profound knowledge of the funds, with the various cauſes and ſymptoms of their *ephemeral* fluctuations. Nay, were the bill to take effect, he ſhould not be ſurpriſed if the ſittings of the Board of Agriculture were ſhortly to be transferred to Lloyd's Coffeehouſe, or the Stock Exchange. None but a few *ruſtic ſimpletons*, he obſerved, could be induced to purchaſe as the bill now ſtood.

Mr Ryder thought the Hon. Baronet could not expect much argument in reply to the ſpeech he had juſt uttered. For his part, he was decidedly for carrying the meaſure into effect with as little delay as poſſible. The Hon. Baronet had declared, that none but a few *ruſtic ſimpletons* could be prevailed on to purchaſe, and yet theſe ſelf ſame few ſimpletons, according to his own ſtatement, had already purchaſed to the annual amount of 550,000l. Then again the Hon. Baronet ſeemed to be moſt woefully alarmed leſt the meaſure ſhould work a ſudden change and metamorphoſis in the character of country gentlemen, leſt, haply from farmers and agriculturiſts, they ſhould become ſtock-jobbers and loan mongers; but ſurely, the Hon. Baronet would allow the poſſibility of gentlemen occaſionally directing their attention from a main and leading object, to concerns of a ſubordinate nature, without totally forſaking their original purſuits, ſince he himſelf, according to his own confeſſion, had occaſionally dabbled in financial ſpeculations at the very time when he filled the high and reſpectable office of Preſident to the Board of Agriculture.

The bill was paſſed, and ordered to the Lords.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Militia Service Bill.

Dec. 18. *Lord Holland* ſaid, this was a ſubject ſo unconſtitutional, as to admit of no debate; that was even allowed by his Majeſty's Miniſters; but in a matter of ſuch vaſt magnitude, he was amazed they had not deemed it prudent, as well as political, to have a call of the Houſe. He did not ſee any neceſſity for the continuation of the Engliſh militia in Ireland, now tranquility was reſtored there, and he knew of no reaſon for it. The meaſure was new, as well as unconſtitutional, when firſt introduced, but neceſſity was then pleaded as a reaſon for it. It is equally new ſtill, as no ſuch neceſſity exiſts. He therefore deſired ſome plauſible pretext, if not argument, for ſo great an innovation of the conſtitution.

Lord Grenville replied, that it did not appear that any call of the Houſe was neceſſary; there was not a Noble Lord in it but who was acquainted with the progreſs of the bill, and equally acquainted with its purport. If laſt year they ſanctioned it from the neceſſity of the times, they would this year find the ſame cauſe for continuing it. Though the rebellion was extinct, ſtill there remained ſufficient reaſon to continue ſome Engliſh regiments in Ireland,

as

as it was juſt as important to maintain tranquility as to ſuppreſs rebellion.

The bill was then read a ſecond time, and ordered to be committed.—Adjourned.

Jan. 2. The ſeveral bills before the Houſe were forwarded in their reſpective ſtages. Among theſe were the commitments of the Habeas Corpus ſuſpenſion bill; and the annual indemnity bill; a trifling amendment was made to the latter on the ſuggeſtion of the *Lord Chancellor*. The bills were reported, and ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

4. The Royal aſſent was given by commiſſion to the armorial bearing bill, the Engliſh and Scots ſmall notes bills, the Cape of Good Hope trade bill, and ſeveral other public and private bills. Several private bills were forwarded in their reſpective ſtages.

Habeas Corpus Suſpenſion Bill.

The order of the day for the third reading of this bill being read,

Lord Suffolk roſe and ſaid, he could not agree to the ſuſpenſion of ſo invaluable a part of the conſtitutional liberty of the ſubject, unleſs ſtrong reaſons were firſt given, and facts of an important nature ſtated, proving the neceſſity of adopting ſuch a meaſure. Were the neceſſity clearly made out, much as he might deplore the ſtate of a country, in the political circumſtances of which this neceſſity was to be found, he would moſt certainly conſent to the meaſure. But it was no mean ſource of conſolation to his mind, that while other portions of Europe either groaned under the exactions of an imperious enemy, or were menaced with convulſions, which the imprudence or ambition of their own rulers provocked, Great Britain remained unſhaken by thoſe elements which generated the ſtorm, a mighty Empire founded in the hearts and in the affections of the people. Hence was it incumbent on Miniſters to ſhew ſome new grounds upon which the preſent bill was to be agreed to by that Houſe of Parliament. If the mere purpoſe of Government was to confine ſuſpected perſons, at leaſt, there was a conſiderable hardſhip in not bringing thoſe perſons to trial, if there exiſted againſt them ſuch charges, and upon ſuch evidence as would conſtitute guilt. But he particularly objected to a meaſure which, if it had it not for its only objection, would produce it as among its moſt lamentable effects, that perſons who had already ſuffered a tedious and painful impriſonment might, at the will of Miniſters, be made to ſuffer a confinement ſtill more irkſome. One gentleman in particular, who would be liable to experience the continuance of his preſent ſuſpence, if this bill ſhould paſs, had in an eminent degree engaged his attention. He alluded to Colonel Deſpard, an officer whom he knew in America, who was there as diſtinguiſhed for his urbanity and his eaſe of acceſs, as the amiable character of his temper, and the ſolidity and extent of his underſtanding. The Noble Lord could not help lamenting the ſituation he was now reduced to. But he ſhould decline going farther into the ſubject, in the confident expectation that the Noble Secretary of State would be able fully to vindicate the conduct of the Government. His Lordſhip here made a tranſition to what had taken place at the trials at Maidſtone, and vindicated himſelf from the imputation (thrown out in different newſpapers) of having any particular knowledge of the private politics of Mr O'Connor.

Lord Grenville obſerved, that if Noble Lords would look at the ſtate of the country, ſuch as it was twelve months ago, and would conſider how much it was in the nature of men, evil diſpoſed and turbulent in their habits, for ſome time to aſſume the appearance of loyalty and moderation, the more ſucceſsfully to compaſs their deſigns, they would readily perceive how neceſſary it muſt be to continue watchful beyond the period of palpable danger, and vigilant beyond the period of acknowledged difficulty. The Noble Lord who had juſt ſat down appeared to think there was no neceſſity for the preſent meaſure. He could aſſure that Noble Lord nothing but the exiſtence of an adequate neceſſity would have induced his Majeſty's Miniſters again to come to Parliament to aſk the vote which their Lordſhips were that evening called upon to give. That had he ſtated, in a few words, his anſwer to the firſt part of the ſpeech of the Noble Lord. With reſpect to the Gentleman who had been alluded to, he could only ſay, that he was ſure Government never had countenanced, and

and never could countenance harsh treatment to any description of prisoners, whose conduct did not imperiously provoke it; and he could assure the House that it was only a few days ago that he first knew of any complaint being made of the treatment of Colonel Despard. The instant it was known that his situation exposed him to unpleasant inconveniences, proper steps were taken to provide for him in a suitable manner, and he was accordingly removed to a commodious apartment. If arguments were wanting to induce the House to agree to the bill before them, a very strong one was to be derived from the contemplation of the progress that this system of perversion and libel had already made. Was not the press made the engine for loading every institution in the country with low and offensive abuse? The conduct of Government was odiously misrepresented; Parliament vilified, and its character distorted and traduced. Under these circumstances he need not press it upon their Lordships to agree to the motion before the House.

Lord Holland was astonished, that a measure of such magnitude should be pushed through the House with such silence and expedition. The only ground, he observed, to which the Noble Secretary of State contended for its adoption, was that the same necessity existed for it then, that existed for it last year. A slight glance at the three first lines of the preamble of the bill would, however, contradict that assertion—they ran to the effect, that the enemy were encouraged in their designs of invading this kingdom by traiterous and evil disposed persons. Could it be said, he would ask the House, whether, if after our recent and signal victories over the enemy, and the losses they had otherwise sustained, that any serious attempt at invasion was to be apprehended from them? Nothing, he contended, but imperious necessity could warrant the continuance of the measure, and of which necessity there should be produced irrefragable proof. The idea he should act upon, in cases like the present, was, that the constitution was adequate to its preservation; it carried sufficient strength and energy within itself to repel much more serious attacks than any it was threatened with at present. The laws at present in existence he thought abundantly sufficient for the punishment of treason. Some proofs should be offered, at least of the necessity for such an extensive infringement of the liberties of the people. It was absurd to contend that a similar necessity existed with that of last year. The situation of the enemy was much altered: for which this country had to thank, first, the rashness of the enemy; then the skill and gallantry exhibited by our naval officers and seamen; but above all the great and glorious victory atchieved by Lord Nelson, of whom, whether he regarded his professional qualifications, or his private virtues, he could speak only in commendation. Praise was also due to the Admiralty, for the skill and vigilance manifested by that department of the Administration. All ideas of invasion being thus defeated, what could remain as a motive but suspicions entertained of the people, and for these there obviously existed no just grounds, one proof of which was, the result of the trials at the Old Bailey? the men tried at which place, though prejudged by the Legislature, were *honourably* acquitted by a verdict of a jury of their country. He considered that a proof of the non-existence of the alleged conspiracy.

Lord Grenville, in reply, observed, that with respect to the futile argument, that the acquittal of persons charged with high treason was a proof that no traitorous conspiracy had existed, he would refer their Lordships to the report on their table, which established every circumstance and every fact connected with the conspiracy, which is stated to have previously occurred. Nothing which came out at those trials in the smallest degree contradicted the reports of the Committees of both Houses. As to the preamble, he would refer their Lordships to his Majesty's message, delivered in that House on the 20th of April last, in which it was stated that the enemy were making preparations to invade these kingdoms, and that their designs were encouraged by a correspondence and communications with traitorous and disaffected persons in this country, &c. In consequence of this message a bill for suspending the Habeas Corpus Act, passed on that day unanimously through

that Houſe. Was not the truth of the facts fully demonſtrated by what occurred ſince that time in Ireland? Was there not one invaſion made on that kingdom, and another attempted? And were they not encouraged by traitorous and diſaffected perſons? One of thoſe perſons, who was (as the Noble Lord expreſſed it) *honourably acquitted* at Maidſtone, had ſince thrown himſelf upon the mercy of that Sovereign whom he had conſpired to dethrone: he begged his life of him whoſe life he had thus endeavoured to take away; had avowed all theſe treaſons, and confeſſed that a correſpondence had been carried on with the enemy, who were invited and encouraged to invade theſe kingdoms. But all the priſoners tried were not acquitted. The direct proof of guilt was brought home to one, who, though an Iriſhman, was carrying the treaſonable paper upon which he was convicted, not from any perſons in Ireland, but from a ſociety of Engliſhmen reſiding in England. Was not all this ſufficient proof that Miniſters were juſtified in their conduct, and in the meaſures they had adopted for the ſecurity of the country? Let any body who doubted the propriety of ſuch meaſures, and doubted the exiſtence of traiterous proceedings in this country, only look to the ſtate of Ireland. There it would be found, from the reports of both Houſes of Parliament in that kingdom, as well as from the evidence and confeſſion of the guilty perſons, that a conſpiracy exiſted ſince the year 1791; the object of which was, to bring about a ſeparation between that country and Great Britain, to dethrone the King, and to eſtabliſh a republic on French principles. All this conſpiracy was carried on by Societies and Committees, and under the ſpecial pretence of Parliamentary reform, which was the watch-word in the beginning. But as they began to gather ſtrength, this maſk was thrown off; they did not confine themſelves to the avowal of a Parliamentary reform as their object, but declared that they deſired to have a free repreſentation of all the people in Parliament. Every body knew of the dreadful rebellion which afterwards burſt forth. Now, then, he would aſk the Noble Lords, whether they ſaw any analogy or ſimilitude between the Iriſh and Engliſh Societies? Would any pretend to ſay, that the object of the meeting at Chalk Farm was that of Parliamentary reform? That reform was a mere pretence under which the London Correſponding Society carried on its treaſonable deſigns. If, after theſe facts, there was any perſon who was not convinced of the danger of a conſpiracy, it would be uſeleſs to him to add any thing more to what he had ſaid, as ſuch prejudices were not to be removed by argument. But let not the blindneſs of any ſuch perſon be the means of miſleading others, and preventing that Houſe from purſuing meaſures for the preſervation of the lives and properties of all the people of this country. If he thought that the people at large were infected with French principles, he muſt confeſs that little could be done by the impriſonment of a few perſons. But as they knew this was not the caſe, he conſidered it as a duty he owed the people, to preſerve their minds from being poiſoned; and that it was for the benefit of the people themſelves that thoſe perſons ſhould be kept down who were endeavouring to miſlead them.

After a few words from *Lord Hawkeſbury* in explanation, their Lordſhips divided,

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The bill was then read a ſecond time and ordered to be committed on Monday.

MONTHLY REGISTER.

GAZETTE INTELLIGENCE.

Whitehall, Jan. 22.

Letters, of which the following are Extracts were yeſterday received from the Earl of Balcarras, by his Grace the Duke of Portland, one of his Majeſty's Principal Secretaries of State. *Jamaica, Nov. 7. 1798.*

MY LORD, On the 31ſt of October I received a diſpatch from the Bay of Honduras.

Lieut.

Lieut. Colonel Barrow informs me, that the ſettlers had been attacked by a flotilla, conſiſting of thirty one veſſels, having on board two thouſand land troops and five hundred ſeamen: Arthur O'Neil, Governor General of Yucatan, and a Field-Marſhal in the ſervice of Spain, commanded in perſon. I have great ſatisfaction in tranſmitting the letter of the Lieut. Colonel, by which your Grace will be informed, that this armament has been repulſed, and the expedition entirely fruſtrated.

The Lieut-Colonel ſpeaks in the handſomeſt manner of the conduct of Captain Moſs, of his Majeſty's ſhip Merlin, and of the wonderful exertions of the ſettlers, and their Negro ſlaves, who manned the gun boats.

The conduct of Lieut-Colonel Barrow, and of the ſettlers, in putting the port of Honduras Bay into a reſpectable ſtate of defence, as well as the gallant manner in which it was maintained, gives me entire ſatisfaction, and it is with pleaſure that I report their ſervices to your Grace.

I have the honour to be, &c.

BALCARRAS.

To his Grace the Duke of Portland.

[Follows the letters of Lieut.-Colonel Barrow, and Captain Moſs which are too long for inſertion, but which diſplay the intrepidity and good conduct of the Britiſh Forces, againſt an enemy very ſuperior in number; Captain Moſs concludes his letter as follows:]

I am happy to add that the ſervice was performed without a man killed on our ſide. The enemy, I think, muſt have ſuffered much, from the great number of men on board, and the precipitate manner they made their retreat. This armament was commanded by General O'Neil, Governor of the province; troops and ſailors included about 2500 men: And ſo certain were the Spaniards of ſucceſs, that the letters found in a canoe taken were actually directed to Belize and St George's Key.

The behaviour of the officers and crew of his Majeſty's ſhip gave me great pleaſure, and had we had deep water to follow them in, I think many of them would have fallen into our hands. The ſpirit of the negro ſlaves that manned our ſmall craft was wonderful, and the good management of the different Commanders does them great credit.

Our force, beſides the Merlin, was as follows:

Two ſloops, with 1 eighteen pounder and 25 men each.

One ſloop, with 1 ſhort nine pounder and 25 men.

Two ſchooners, with 6 four pounders and 25 men each.

Seven gun-flats, with 1 nine pounder and 16 men each.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.

JNO. R. MOSS.

Colonel Barrow ſtates the forces of the enemy as follows:

The expedition was commanded by Arthur O'Neil, a Field Marſhal in the armies of Spain, and Captain General of the province of Yucatan. The Campeachy fleet was commanded by Captain Bocco Negra: Two thouſand ſoldiers were embarked, and diſtributed in proportion to the dimenſions of the veſſels, on board of the fleet, which conſiſted of,

The veſſels which made the attack, in number -	6
Reſerve of equal force, -	5
A very large ſloop of equal force, and ſix ſchooners not ſo large, but armed in the ſame manner as thoſe which came down to the attack, and drawing too much water, remained with the tranſports and victuallers,	
Tranſports, victuallers, &c. all carrying bow and ſide guns of different calibers, - -	11
Total	31

And navigated by five hundred ſeamen, principally from the Havanna and Campeachy.

I am &c, THO. BARROW.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

HOLLAND.

The Dutch papers ſtill ſpeak of the Belgic inſurgents being in ſuch force, as is productive of the moſt ſerious alarm, leſt they ſhould be able to poſſeſs themſelves of Oſtend, through which port, it is apprehended, they will receive immediate ſuccours from England. It is ſtill ſuſpected, that they have eſtabliſhed an extenſive correſpondence with the Orange party of Holland. The

Dutch papers ſpeak of the Texel fleet being in no condition to put to ſea, for want of hands to man the ſhips.

FRANCE.

From the vigilant attention ſhown by the ruling powers in France, to prevent any newſpapers from going out of the country, our information regarding the preſent ſtate of that country, muſt be very imperfect. Beſides the inſurrection in Belgium, which has for ſome time paſt riſen to a conſiderable height, the Madrid papers alſo contain accounts of various inſurrections in the South of France, particularly at Bayonne; in conſequence of which ſuch draughts had been made from General Angereau's head quarters at Perpignan, that ſcarce a ſufficient number remained to form the General's guard.

The following ſpeech of Bailleul, in the Council of Five Hundred, ſhows the ideas they entertain of the importance of a navy. Bailleul called the attention of the Council to the ſubject of cruizers. The armies of the Republic, ſaid he, have given a new and diſtinguiſhed proof of republican energy. One enemy, however, ſtill remains, and it is our duty to conſider the means by which he may be attacked with effect. Before a general attack is made, the government may employ with advantage the exertions of our cruizers. Inſtead of throwing obſtacles in the way, we ought to encourage them, as one of the means of *overthrowing the Britiſh power*. Theſe iſlanders cannot exiſt without commerce. Few of the ports on the continent are now open to them. Neutral powers can no longer become the inſtruments of their commerce, and any change in the law of the 20th Nivoſe, prohibiting entirely the uſe of Britiſh manufactures, would be a great evil for the Republic. If our cruizers are numerous, the enemy will be obliged either to combine or divide their forces. If they divide them, they will be beaten: If they combine them, they can no longer afford convoys to their merchant ſhips, and then they are abandoned to the courage and enterpriſe of our cruizers, who will renew the prodigies performed by Duguay Trouin and his Buccaneers. To theſe advantages will be added the invaluable one of increaſing the number of our ſailors. It is not by inactivity, lying in roads, or in the preparations of a dock-yard, that ſailors are to be reared; it is on board cruizers, ſtruggling conſtantly with the ſtormy element, that they can become acquainted with the manœuvres neceſſary to manage a ſhip.

After dwelling on theſe obſervations, he made ſeveral propoſals, which were referred to a ſpecial Committee.

GERMANY.

It appears that the treaty of Raſtadt is now ſo far advanced, that the German States look for nothing but peace. Notwithſtanding the ſucceſs of the French arms in Italy, the Emperor is ſtill quiet. The following is a note, dated January 3d, regarding the paſſage of the Ruſſian troops through the Germanic territory:

The underſigned Plenipotentiary Miniſters of the French Republic for the negotiation of peace with the Germanic Empire, are commiſſioned by their government to make this formal declaration to the Deputation of the Empire:

"That if the Diet of Ratiſbon either conſent to the entry of the Ruſſian troops into the territory of the Empire, or even if they do not oppoſe them with vigour, the march of the Ruſſian army into the Germanic territory will be conſidered as a violation of neutrality on the part of the Empire; the negociation at Raſtadt will be broken off, and the Republic and the Empire will be on the ſame footing on which they ſtood before the preliminaries for the armiſtice were ſigned. To this declaration, dictated by the neceſſity of circumſtances, the underſigned add with pleaſure, the moſt expreſs aſſurance of the diſpoſition of their government to avail themſelves of every favourable circumſtance for the relief and advantage of the Empire, and of the ſincere deſire which forms the ſubject of this note, and which may not become fatal to the internal tranquillity of Germany, may not deſtroy the hopes which are now almoſt realized, of a perfect reconciliation and perpetual peace between the two nations. No one can be deceived as to the objects and intentions of the cabinet of Peterſburgh. The Deputation of the Empire is too well informed as to the affairs of Europe, not to ſee clearly, that Ruſſia, after having aſſiſted the war during ſix

years

years without taking an active part in it herself, now openly attempts aggreſſion againſt France, with a view to prevent the re-eſtabliſhment of tranquillity on the continent, and evidently with an intention to cover her great and long meditated uſurpations.

"The underſigned have no doubt that the Deputation will ſee, in the meaſures of the French government, an additional proof of their pacific intentions, and an opportunity afforded to the Empire, of gaining ſtill further the friendſhip of the Republic.

"They aſſure the Plenipotentiary Miniſter of his Imperial Majeſty of their high conſideration."

(Signed) BONNIER.
JEAN DEBRY.
ROBERJOT.

ITALY.

There have been no official accounts publiſhed as yet, regarding the operations of the French ſince the declaration of war againſt the Kings of Naples and Sardinia. It appears, that on the 26th of November the Cavalier D. General Palentini, who has continued to reſide at Rome, and acted the part of Jacobin, rode on horſeback through the ſtreets of Rome, and proclaimed that the Neapolitan army was on the point of arriving. A conſiderable number of the national guards immediately joined him, and the populace collected in the ſtreets, exclaiming, "Long live the King of Naples." They cut down the tree of liberty, and deſtroyed the monument of General Duphot, erected laſt year in the Capital. All the Conſuls and Repreſentatives of the people then provided for their ſafety by leaving the city.

"On the 27th a number of horſemen of the Poliſh legion rode through the ſtreets of Rome, and committed many acts of violence; ſome French patroles, likewiſe, drove the people before them, and ordered that all the ſhops and houſes ſhould be ſhut up. Rome now reſembled a deſert city, every houſe being cloſely ſhut. The national guard, was, however, not inactive, but prevented the plundering of the bank of pledges. In the evening the Neapolitan advanced guard arrived, and entered the city with the ringing of all the bells, and amid the moſt joyful acclamations of the people —On the 29th, in the afternoon, the King of Naples arrived with the remainder of the army. All the ſtreets through which he paſſed to the Farnèſian Palace, were ſpread with carpets and ſtrewed with flowers.

"On the 1ſt of December the King ſummoned the caſtle of St Angelo; but the garriſon conſiſting of 300 men only, ſent out the prieſts and cavaliers who had been taken as hoſtages, and declared, that they would defend themſelves to the laſt man. The King of Naples has appointed a Proviſional Council, conſiſting of four perſons, viz. the Prince Aldobrandini Borgheſe, the Prince Gabrielli, the Marcheſe Maſſin, and the Cavalier Ricci.

The whole force with which the King of Naples entered the Roman territory amounted to 50,000 men. He left 16,000 for the defence of the Neapolitan dominions.

A ſad reverſe has ſince taken place; by the laſteſt accounts we learn, that, after a ſeries of continued diſaſters, which General Mack attributes to the cowardice and treachery of the Neapolitan troops, many of the officers of which are ſuſpected to have been bribed by the enemy, he deſpaired of being able to protect the capital. It moreover appears, that the troops immediately appointed for its defence had laid down their arms and diſperſed, although, in point of numbers, they were ſtill ſuperior to the enemy. Under theſe diſcouraging circumſtances their Neapolitan Majeſties, the Royal Family, and about ſix hundred perſons of the higheſt rank were induced to ſeek for ſhelter on board our ſhips of war laying in the Bay of Naples. The King and Queen embarked on board the Vanguard, of 74 guns, commanded by Lord Nelſon, who propoſed to carry them to Palermo in Sicily. It is not known what number of Neapolitan troops the King could collect to accompany him to Sicily; but if they are no better than thoſe he has left behind on the continent, their numbers are not very material. General Mack was at Capua, near Naples, with the remains of the Neapolitan army. He complains bitterly both of the officers and men, ſome of the former, there is little doubt, were guilty of the groſſeſt treachery, and the latter could ſcarcely ever be brought to face the French troops. Many of the ſoldiers had deſerted; and from the diſpirited ſtate

of

of the remainder, and the diſcontent of the officers, nothing could be expected. It is underſtood that the Royal Family have been able to carry with them the royal jewels, regalia, and many articles of value. There are, however, in the different arſenals of the kingdom great quantities of naval and military ſtores, which, it is thought, cannot be prevented from falling into the hands of the enemy. It is poſſible, too, that they may alſo obtain poſſeſſion of ſome of the Neapolitan ſhips of war.

The only accounts of the ſucceſſes of the French are to be got from their own papers, the moſt remarkable circumſtances of which we ſhall extract. General Championet thus writes to the Executive Directory on the 6th December.

Citizen Directors,

After the battles of Terni and Porto Fermo, I expected every day new attacks from the Neapolitans, and I was very much ſurpriſed at their inactivity, but they employed that time to collect their ſcattered troops, and to advance againſt my right. General Macdonald was, indeed, attacked yeſterday in his camp at Civita Caſtellana by five columns, who proceeded from Bacano. The enemy's force conſiſted of 40,000 men. General Macdonald, ſurrounded on all ſides, gave proofs of his great talents. He received the attack with that courage which diſtinguiſhes the man of a firm character, and by his able diſpoſitions diſconcerted the projects of the enemy.

General Kellerman, commanding the advanced guard, who was poſted before Nepi, was attacked with great impetuoſity by the firſt column which advanced from Monteroſi; the General had with him only three ſquadrons of the 19th horſe chaſſeurs, two pieces of light artillery, and the firſt diviſion of the 11th regiment of the line. This handful of brave men routed a column of the enemy conſiſting of 8000 men; killed or wounded 400, took 15 pieces of cannon of different calibres, 50 caiſſons, 2000 priſoners, 50 of whom were officers, ſome of them of high rank; ſeveral pairs of colours, eight or nine hundred horſes or mules; the military cheſt, 3000 muſquets, all the baggage, and purſued the fugitives to Monteroſi, where they got immenſe booty. The reſult of this day is twenty-three pieces of cannon, all of French calibre, forty-five caiſſons, eight or nine hundred horſes or mules, ſtandards, and colours, the military cheſt, 52 officers, 2000 priſoners, baggage, &c.

The loſs on our ſide is confined to 30 men killed, and double that number wounded. CHAMPIONET.

Championet, Commander in Chief, to the Executive Directory.

Citizen Directors,

The enemy's column having been beaten on the 6th, at Otricoli, retired to the heights of Calvi, where they entrenched themſelves. I was informed on the 8th, that General Maeck had paſſed the Tiber in perſon, over a bridge of boats, with a body of from 8000 to 10,000 men, at the heights of Civita Caſtellana, and that he had taken a poſition at Cantalupo, in order to reinforce the corps of Calvi, and to attempt again to cut off our communications, by marching againſt Otricoli and Terni, by the way of Aſpra and Colliſepoli. I immediately gave orders to General Macdonald to march the brigade of General Mathieu towards Calvi by the way of Otricoli, and that of the Poliſh General Kniazewitz towards the ſame point, by the way of Magliano, whilſt Lemoine marched from Rieti againſt Calvi by the way of Contillano, and took poſſeſſion, in his route, of Civita Ducale, a Neapolitan country, and threatened Aquila. This movement was executed in the beſt poſſible manner. In the night between the 8th and 9th, all the columns ſet out on their march, amidſt a horrible ſtorm, and through the moſt terrible roads. The troops of Macdonald arrived on the 9th, at day break, before Calvi: They attacked the enemy on the heights, and after a hot engagement, the 11th demi-brigade of the line having aſcended a very ſteep mountain, threw the enemy into the city, whether they were followed and ſurrounded. They were ſummoned to ſurrender; in anſwer to which they made ſome ridiculous propoſitions. Macdonald replied, by ſending them his ultimatum, which was couched in the following terms: "*the columns ſhall be priſoners at diſcretion, or be put to the ſword.*" They ſurrendered immediately. Five thouſand priſoners, among whom are the

Marſhal

Marshal de Mert, Brigadier Don Carello, 20 superior officers, and 100 subalterns, 5000 good musquets, 300 horses, 15 standards, eight of which were blown up by an explosion of some powder near a guard-house, and eight pieces of cannon, were the fruits of this attack.

CHAMPIONET.

The French have marked their victory by the most atrocious excesses: Their vengeance has fallen on the towns and villages where the hatred of their oppressions had appeared. Viterbo, amongst others, was given up to pillage and reduced to ashes.

On the 8th of January, the King of Sardinia passed by Parma. He was obliged to remain there some days, because his wife was taken ill. He thence pursued his route towards Leghorn, where he embarked for Sardinia.

RUSSIA.

Advices from Petersburgh state, that all their troops were in motion on the 2d December. A second column, 30,000 strong, is now marching to Cracovia, and takes the same route with the first. On the other side, 20,000 men are embarking in the Crimea for the Mediterranean, and 25,000 men are marching to Widdin, against Passwan Oglou. They speak of a considerable embarkation about to take place in the spring in the Baltic. The Prince of Conde's army, which was ordered to march with the second Russian column, remonstrated, and the order was countermanded. Paul I. has given a gratification of four months pay to the crews of the squadron serving in the Mediterranean.

TURKEY.

It appears that the rebel Passwan Oglou is still gaining ground. On the 5th December he presented himself before the fortress of Orsowa, and so great was the terror which he inspired, that the town instantly opened its gates. He ordered to be arrested and conducted to Widdin the Commander of that town, Cowe Mustapha, who last year was one of his principal adherents, and who, having delivered up Orsowa to the Ottoman General, was rewarded for that service with the command of that fortress. It might naturally be expected, that, from the dread of falling into the hands of Passwan Oglou, he would have defended himself to the last extremity; but it seems that he was surprised, or that he yielded to the general consternation. Passwan Oglou did not leave any garrison in that quarter; but after having exacted a contribution, and a quantity of provisions from the inhabitants, he passed the Danube, and proceeded to Wallachia. He continues to accumulate a large quantity of provisions, for which he has contracts with different merchants, to be afterwards paid in cash.

EGYPT.

The accounts circulated regarding the death of Buonaparte and the massacre of the French officers has never been confirmed, and is now generally discredited: The accounts from Constantinople of date the 2d Dec. state, that the French, immediately after their landing at Aboukir, erected a fort, which they furnished with heavy artillery, partly to defend their shipping, partly to maintain a communication with the sea for their land forces, and partly to prevent a landing from the ships of the enemy. To drive the French from this post, the English Commodore Hood, who held the harbour of Alexandria blocked up, detached some Turkish gun-boats, which furiously attacked the fort, and obliged the French to abandon it. Commodore Hood then took possession of the fort, and landed several thousand troops, which had been sent by the Pacha of Rhodes. These troops, after having compelled the French to retreat, took such a position as to cut off the communication of the French between Alexandria, Rosetta, and Cairo. The situation of Buonaparte is by this rendered extremely critical. He has retired from Cairo, nearer to Alexandria; he is in want of provisions and ammunition, and incessantly attacked by the Arabs.

It appears, by the latest accounts from Egypt, that an order has been issued from Buonaparte, for incorporating all the young Mamalukes from eight to six years of age, and all their slaves indiscriminately, with his battalions, and an order that all the inhabitants of Egypt shall wear the tri-coloured cockade; that all the vessels navigating the Nile shall carry the tri-coloured

coloured flag, and that the tri-coloured flag ſhould be hoiſted on the higheſt ſpire of Cairo. Theſe orders excited much inquietude among the people, to diſſipate which, it is ſaid, Buonaparte ſummoned a meeting of ſeveral members of the Divan, and harangued them with ſuch effect, that a majority of them received the cockade, and promiſed that all the people ſhould ſpeedily follow their example.

The following account of an inſurrection publiſhed in the Paris papers, may have given riſe to the ſuppoſed maſſacre of Buonaparte, and other French officers, ſo long the ſubject of converſation. "It appears certain, that the famous Divan which met at Cairo did not anſwer the expectation which Buonaparte had conceived of them. They determined that all innovation was contrary to the Koran, and that the Koran had foreſeen every poſſible human contingency. On coming out of the Divan, General Z——— was attacked with fury; he defended himſelf for a long time, but was forced to yield at length to numbers. A General who had received information that the Muſſelmen in arms, being excited by their furious and zealous prieſts, were preparing to deſtroy the Inſtitute, brought immediate aſſiſtance, and periſhed in the action—Buonaparte inſtantly aſſembled all the troops in the city, and ordered the alarm to be beaten. A camp of 6000 men, which was at a little diſtance, haſtened to the place, and made a dreadful ſlaughter of theſe aſſaſſins. Fifteen hundred of them took ſhelter in a moſque and cried for mercy. "No mercy to aſſaſſins," was the reply. All were put to the ſword, and *it is added* that Buonaparte withdrew to the camp."

IRELAND.

This kingdom has of late been much agitated by the propoſed union with Great Britain. A new inſurrection broke out in the county of Clare; which, by the timely exertions of the military, has now been completely ſuppreſſed with little bloodſhed.

The Iriſh Parliament was opened on the 22d, by the following ſpeech of the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Cornwallis.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"I have received his Majeſty's commands to meet you in Parliament.

"I congratulate you on the happy effects which have followed the unparalleled atchievement of the detachment of his Majeſty's fleet under the command of Rear-Admiral Lord Nelſon; on the total defeat of the French ſquadron off the coaſts of this kingdom by that under the command of Sir John Borlaſe Warren; and on the brilliant and important conqueſt of Minorca. Thoſe events, while they afford to us, in common with every other deſcription of his Majeſty's ſubjects, matter of juſt pride and ſatisfaction, muſt, at the ſame time, give confidence to other powers, and ſhow to all Europe the beneficial effects of a ſyſtem of vigour and exertion, directed with manly perſeverance, againſt the deſtructive projects of the common enemy.

"I feel much concern in being obliged to acquaint you, that a ſpirit of diſaffection ſtill prevails in ſeveral parts of this kingdom; and that the ſecret agents of the enemy are active in raiſing an expectation of freſh aſſiſtance from France.

"In this ſituation, and under the evident neceſſity of continuing the war with vigour, his Majeſty firmly relies upon that ſpirit and magnanimity which have hitherto marked all your exertions in ſupport of the honour of his crown, of the intereſts of his kingdom, and of the general cauſe of the empire.

"*Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons,*

"I have ordered the public accounts and eſtimates to be laid before you; and as I am confident your wiſdom will raiſe the ſupplies which may be neceſſary in the manner leaſt burdenſome to the ſubject, ſo you may depend upon my attention to their prudent and economical application.

"It is with great ſatisfaction I obſerve, that notwithſtanding our internal calamities, this kingdom, blended as its intereſts are in the general proſperity of the empire, has participated in the effects of the increaſing wealth and commerce of Great Britain, and that our revenues and trade have increaſed.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"It is my duty to recommend to you

your attention the various objects of internal regulation which have so long enjoyed the benefit of your protection and support. Your agriculture, your manufactures, and particularly the linen manufacture, the Protestant charter schools, and other charitable institutions, will require, and will, I am sure, continue to receive that aid and encouragement which they have uniformly experienced from the liberality of Parliament. I am confident you will feel a particular anxiety to give further attention to the just and honourable claims of those who have suffered from their loyalty during the late rebellion.

"His Majesty depends upon your persevering energy to repress, by every wise effort, the spirit of disaffection, which still requires the exercise of extraordinary powers to check its malignant effects. In recurring, where occasion has required it, to acts of indispensible severity, I have not been inattentive to the suggestions of mercy, and have endeavoured to mitigate the effects of penal justice, and the necessary exertions of the powers of the state, with as much forbearance and lenity as could be, consistent with the public safety.

"In the general cause which engages the empire, our prospect is highly encouraging; but in proportion as a successful termination of the war becomes probable, our efforts should be redoubled in order to secure it.

"The zeal of his Majesty's regular and militia forces, the gallantry of the seamanry, the honourable co-operation of the British fencibles and militia, and the activity, skill, and valour of his Majesty's fleets, will, I doubt not, defeat every future effort of the enemy.

"But the more I have reflected on the situation and circumstances of this kingdom, considering, on the one hand, the strength and stability of Great Britain, and, on the other, those divisions which have shaken Ireland to its foundation, the more anxious I am for some permanent adjustment, which may extend the advantages enjoyed by our sister kingdom to every part of this island.

"The unremitting industry with which our enemies persevere in their avowed design of endeavouring to effect a separation of this kingdom from Great Britain, must have engaged your particular attention; and his Majesty's commands are to express his anxious hope, that this consideration, joined to the sentiment of mutual affection and common interest, may dispose the Parliaments in both kingdoms to provide the most effectual means of maintaining and improving a connection essential to their common security, and of consolidating, as far as possible, into one firm and lasting fabric, the strength, the power, and the resources of the British Empire."

The address in the House of Peers was moved by the Earl of Glandore.—That in the House of Commons by the Earl of Tyrone.

LONDON.

Jan. 1. The severity of the frost has been much greater in the south than in Scotland. The guard of the Exeter mail coach was so severely frozen when he got into Salisbury, that he lost the use of his hands, his feet, and was speechless, so as to be obliged to be lifted from the coach. The river Thames exhibited a most melancholy aspect: Many of the arches at Westminster Bridge were choaked up by the ice; and at London Bridge the barrier of ice was complete from the London to the Southwark shore. A poor man was found frozen to death at Charing-cross, near the place in which another had perished from the inclemency of the weather the preceding night.

3. This being the day the Duke of Ruthland came of age, a grand gala was given at Belvoir Castle. Besides an innumerable multitude of peasantry, about 250 persons of the first rank attended. The service of plate belonging to the family, is supposed to be worth upwards of 20,000l. and has been deposited in the Bank of England ever since the death of the late Duke.

7. James Turnbull, a soldier in the Guards, was brought to the public office, Bow-street, in the custody of Thomas Hill, the master of a vessel belonging to Dover, and a constable, charged with feloniously stealing 2000 new guineas from the Mint on the 20th of last month. It appeared he went from London to Chatham, and that he arrived in a vessel from that place at Dover last Friday evening, after the master

of the veſſel had agreed to convey him to Calais for 100 guineas, which ſum was paid. On their arrival at Dover the priſoner ſeemed in a great hurry to ſail from thence to Calais; but the maſter of the veſſel who took him from Chatham, informed him he could not convey him to Calais, but would procure him one that would; accordingly he applied to the above-named Thomas Hill, who agreed to take the priſoner to France for 30 guineas. A diſpute, however, aroſe between the two maſters concerning the payment of the 30 guineas, the priſoner refuſing to pay it, having agreed with the maſter of the veſſel who brought him from Chatham to Dover for 100 guineas to land him in France; this obliged the priſoner to remain at Dover till Saturday morning, when Mr Hill ſaw him again, and the priſoner being very urgent to get to France, without aſſigning the particular buſineſs he was going upon, and Mr Hill having juſt heard of the robbery of the Mint, he found the priſoner anſwered the deſcription, upon which he procured aſſiſtance, and took him into cuſtody. On ſearching him, 1010 new guineas were found on him. He ſays, he had only put off two of the new guineas—one of them to the gaoler's wife at Dover, the other he does not ſay where.

14. Early this morning Lord Camelford arrived at Dover, in one of the night coaches from London, and went to the City of London Inn. After taking his breakfaſt, he walked about the pier, enquiring for a boat to convey him to Deal. A boatman, offered to take his Lordſhip for one guinea. Lord Camelford called him, aſide, and after ſome converſation told him that he thought he ſhould have occaſion to go to the other ſide of the water, and that he wiſhed to be landed at Calais, as he had ſome watches and muſlins which he wiſhed to diſpoſe of in France. He then bargained for what he ſhould pay to go to Calais; the boatman aſked 15 guineas—Lord Camelford ſaid he could only give 10, as his goods would not afford a larger ſum. At length it was agreed he ſhould pay 12 guineas. Some other converſation paſſed, in the courſe of which Lord Camelford obſerved, that Turnbull, the ſoldier who had robbed the Mint, had made a bungling buſineſs of it, and did not know how to go about a buſineſs of that ſort, for if he had, he might have got away. He appointed ſix o'clock in the evening to go off. Adams, in the interval, conſulted with his brother, who had a ſhare in the boat, and they agreed to acquaint Mr Newport, the Collector, of the converſation that had paſſed. Mr Newport accordingly planned, that the perſon ſhould be ſuffered to get into the boat, and there be ſeized. At ſix o'clock, Adams called at the City of London Inn, and Lord Camelford and he went to the water ſide. He recommended his Lordſhip to put on one of his great coats, as he would be cold, which he did. Lord Camelford got into the boat, where there were four men, and having ſeated himſelf, Mr Newport ſeized him, and ſaid—"You are my priſoner." Lord Camelford ſurrendered without oppoſition, and was immediately taken to the cuſtom houſe. On being aſked his name, he ſaid it was Camelford, but mentioned no title, nor was it known who he was until he arrived at the Secretary of State's office. When taken, there were found on him a brace of piſtols, and a ſhort dagger two-edged, and about eight inches long and rather curved; there was alſo in his pocket a letter in French, addreſſed to ſome perſon at Paris.

It appearing, on the fulleſt examination, that the ſtep taken by Lord Camelford originated from no improper intention, but on the contrary from zeal for the ſervice, his Majeſty has been pleaſed to grant his Lordſhip a free pardon for the breach of the ſtatute of laſt ſeſſion, within the proviſion of which he is brought by the mere act of embarking for France.

The ſubſcription ſo ſhort a time ſince opened for making a tunnel under the river Thames, is now cloſed, the whole ſum of 30,000l. being raiſed.

EDINGURGH.

Jan. 1. This being New Year's Day, the firſt regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers, Artillery and Infantry, aſſembled in St Andrew's church, when an elegant and animated diſcourſe was preached by the Rev. Dr Moodie, from Pſalm cxxii. verſe 6. "Pray for the peace of Jeruſalem, they ſhall proſper that love thee." A liberal collection

was made, which will be distributed, as usual, by a committee of this respectable and patriotic corps, for the relief of the indigent poor and destitute sick.

2 This day the Magistrates and Council resolved to give a call to the Rev. Professor Finlayson to be one of the Ministers of the High Church, and also to give a call to the Rev. Dr Andrew Brown, Minister of Lochmaben, to supply the vacancy in this city.

It was also resolved, that a new church should be built in the city, for the more convenient accommodation of the citizens, on account of the number of applications for seats in the different churches. A Committee was appointed to fix on the most convenient spot on which to erect it. This is besides the one intended to be built in Charlotte Square.

4. This day a mason fell from the roof of a house in George's Square, and was taken up dead. The whole families in the Square joined in a most humane and liberal contribution for behoof of the widow and children of the unfortunate sufferer.

Highland Society of Scotland.

8. A general meeting of this Society was held in their hall, which was honoured with a respectable attendance of Noblemen and Gentlemen, to the number of *eighty*. After the admission of 38 new members, the Society, besides sundry branches of business regarding the distribution of premiums for the improvement of black cattle, raising green crops, &c. in the Highlands, had under their consideration the salt laws, and other objects of national importance. They also voted a piece of plate, value *ten guineas*, to Mr Smith of Swineridgemuir, as a mark of their approbation of his extensive improvement of moss ground.

9. This day the Heritors, Kirk Session, and Inhabitants of North Leith, met, and having taken into consideration the advanced years of their minister Dr Johnstone, who is still in good health, but who is justly entitled to some relief from his long and laborious services, having been a minister above forty years, did unanimously nominate and appoint Mr Walter Foggo Ireland, preacher of the gospel, to be his assistant and successor.

The Sutherland Fencibles, consisting of 1100 men, since its arrival in Ireland in June last, has only lost three men, two of whom died of sickness, and one lost his life by the rebels in the battle in the county of Meath.

Several persons have lately been taken up in the county of Fife, by warrant of the Sheriff, for issuing counterfeit money, both gold and silver, and a considerable sum of base money has been seized.

THE weather during the month of January, has been on the whole moderate, with very little rain. There were a few frosty days about the beginning of the month; on the 27th it set in with more intenseness, and continued so to the end. The range of the thermometer in the morning, has been from 25° to 45°. The supply of the markets has been plentiful, and at moderate prices: Best beef and mutton 5d and 5½d; veal 7d; pork 5d per lib.; cod fish in abundance; turbet and other fish also occasionally; the herrings 14 a penny.

The English report in next Number.

LISTS.

MARRIAGES.

Lately, at Sligo, in Ireland, Lieutenant John Smith, of the royal navy, to Miss M'Dowall, only daughter of Francis Macdowall, Esq.

At Sacomb, Hertfordshire, Capt. James Crook, of the East and West Lothian Light Dragoons, to Miss Fayrer, daughter of the late Richard Fayrer, Esq; of Sacomb Green Herts.

Jan. 1. At Mary-le-bonne Church, James Seton, junior, Esq; of Upper Harley-street, to Mrs Mackay, late of the island of St Vincent.

3. At Woodhall, Mr Robert Ainslie, W. S. to Miss Jane Cunninghame, daughter of the deceased Colonel James Cunninghame, late in the service of the States of Holland.

7. At Glasgow, Mr John Dempster, merchant, to Miss Agnes M'Kean, daughter of the deceased Mr M'Kean, merchant.

— At Ayr, Lieutenant Charles Dalrymple, of the 71st regiment, to Miss Margaret Boswell, daughter of Mr John Boswell, writer in Ayr.

8. At Greenock, Mr David Lillie, manufacturer in Glasgow, to Miss Margaret M'Gown, daughter of Mr Archibald Macgown, merchant, Greenock.

9. At Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Adam, of the General Post Office, to Miss Johan-

na Livingſton, daughter of the deceaſed Mr Alexander Livingſton, merchant, Croſs-cauſeway.

14. At Anderſton, the Rev. John Mitchell, to Miſs Ann Gilleſpie, daughter of Wm Gilleſpie, Eſq; of Weſtfield.

— At Bargany, the Hon. Hugh Lindſay, ſon of the late Earl of Balcarras, to Miſs J. Gordon, daughter of the late Hon. Alexander Gordon, Lord Rockville.

24. At Aberdeen, Mr Gavin Young, of London, merchant, to Miſs Jopp, daughter of the late James Jopp, Eſq; of Cotton.

25. At Edinburgh, George Abercromby, Eſq; Advocate, eldeſt ſon of Sir Ralph Abercromby, K. B. commander in chief for Scotland, to Miſs Montagu Dundas, youngeſt daughter of the Right Hon. Henry Dundas.

28. At Stirling, Alexander M'Gibbon, Eſq; writer, to Miſs Gordon Pringle, daughter of the deceaſed Captain Pringle, of Aberdeen.

29. At Stirling, Thomas Wingate, Eſq; to Miſs Caroline Fraſer, youngeſt daughter of the Rev. Dr Fraſer, of Inverary.

BIRTHS.

Jan. 1. Mrs Sinclair of Barrock, a daughter.

6. Mrs Hay of Drummelzier, a ſon.

11. Mrs Buchan Sydeſſ, a daughter.

DEATHS.

At Gibraltar, Lieut. David Reid, of the Northumberland, youngeſt ſon of the late Mr Andrew Reid, brewer, Canongate.

At Antigua, George Murray, ſon of Mr William Murray, merchant, New Street, Canongate.

At his Lordſhip's ſeat at Birmingham, in the county of Galway, in the 82d year of his age, the Earl of Louth, Premier Baron of Ireland.

On his paſſage from the Cape of Good Hope to Bengal, in May laſt, Mr Thomas Innes, ſurgeon, ſon of the late George Innes, Eſq; Inſpector General of the Stamp Duties for Scotland.

At Demerara, in October laſt, Mr John Maule, merchant there, only ſon of the late Charles Maule, Eſq; Leith.

At ſea, on the 31ſt of July, Capt. James Cornwallis, commanding the Sheerneſs of 44 guns, employed on the coaſt of Africa, an officer of diſtinguiſhed worth and talents.

At Dawliſh, in Devonſhire, James Grant, Eſq; father of William Grant, Eſq; Chief Juſtice of Cheſter.

A few days ago, Mr Henry Graham, miniſter of the pariſh of Cumbray.

Jan. 1. At London, in the 80th year of her age, the Right Hon. Lady Elphingſtone, widow of the late Charles Lord Elphingſtone, and only child of John Earl of Wigton.

— At Stromneſs, Alexander Stewart, Eſq; of Maſſeter, in the 70th year of his age.

2. At Arbroath, Mr James Butchart, merchant and late Provoſt of Arbroath.

— At London, Captain Robert Spears, many years commander of a veſſel in the Jamaica trade.

4. Alexander Macalpine, Eſq; merchant in Glaſgow.

— At Leith, Dr Charles Maule.

5. At Dean Houſe, John Swinton, Eſq; of Swinton, one of the Senators of the College of Juſtice.

5. At London, the Marquis of Donegal. The Marquis was born on the 13th of June 1739, and ſucceeded his uncle in the title and eſtate in 1756. In 1761 he married a daughter of the Duke of Hamilton, by whom he had iſſue, four daughters and three ſons; all of whom died young, except Lord Belfaſt, born in 1769, and his brother Lord Spencer Stanley.

6. At Hatchfield, Andrew Ramſay Kerr, Eſq; formerly Chief of Surat, and governor of Bombay.

— At Briſtol, Mr Lauder of Whitefield.

8. At Hampſtead, John Stuart, Eſq.

12. At Inverkeithing, Wm Morris of Brierylill, Eſq.

15. At Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon, eldeſt ſon of Mr Thomas Gordon, W. S.

— At Aberdeen, Mr Alexander Leith, preacher of the goſpel. He had taught in that city for more than 21 years, with great ſucceſs.

17. At manſe of Inverury, the Rev. William Davidſon, miniſter there, in the 69th year of his age, and 30th of his miniſtry.

20. At the houſe of Preſton, county of Linlithgow, Mrs Ann Seton, aged 95.

23. At Edinburgh, Colonel Alexander Duncan, of Caſtlefield, Provoſt of the city of St Andrew's.

— At Coldſtream, the Rev. James Young, late miniſter of the goſpel at Legerwood.

Haddington, Jan. 25.

Wheat, 24s. Barley, 17s. 6d. Oats, 13s. Peaſe, 15s. 6d. Beans, 13s.

Edinburgh, Jan. 28. Oat-meal, 1s. Bear-meal, 10d. Peaſe-meal, 8d.

PRICES OF STOCKS.

Jan. 12.	Jan. 24.
Bank Stock 138¾	134¼
3 per cent red. 54	53¾
3 per cent. conſ. 53⅝	52⅞
4 per cent. 67¼	66½
India Stock 163¼	162
Lottery Tickets 13l. 15s.	13l. 15s. 6d.

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EDINBURGH:

Sold by JAMES WATSON, No 40. South Bridge,
And by the Principal Bookſellers in Town and Country.
And by T. KAY, Strand, London.

A NEW PATENT

For the Conſtruction of a Philoſophical Furnace or Boiler.

WILLIAM RALEY, of Newbold, Yorkſhire, chemiſt, obtained a patent in December 1798, for the conſtruction of a philoſophical furnace or boiler. In this boiler a larger ſurface of water is expoſed to the heat of the fire than in ordinary boilers, hence with a ſmaller quantity of coals the evaporation is made to go on more rapidly. This improvement is applicable to all purpoſes in which the briſk evaporation of a fluid is required, as in the ſteam engine, the chryſtallization of ſalts, &c.

An Eaſy and Expeditious Method of Diſſipating the Noxious Vapour, commonly found in wells, and other ſubterraneous places.

AFTER various unſucceſsful trials, I was led (ſays the author) to conſider, how I could convey a large quantity of freſh air from the top to the bottom of a well; ſuppoſing that the foul would neceſſarily give way to the pure air. With this view I procured a pair of ſmith's bellows, fixed in a wooden frame, ſo as to work in the ſame manner as at the forge. This apparatus being placed at the edge of the well, one end of the leathern tube (the hoſe of a fire engine) was cloſely adapted to the noſe of the bellows, and the other end was thrown into the well, reaching within one foot of the bottom. At this time the well was ſo infected, that a candle would not burn at a ſhort diſtance from the top; but after blowing with my bellows only half an hour, the candle burned bright at the bottom; then, without farther difficulty, I proceeded in the work, and finiſhed my well.

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For FEBRUARY 1799.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF WILLIAM TYTLER, Esq. OF WOODHOUSELEE, F. R. S. EDIN.

BY HENRY MACKENZIE, Esq. F. R. S. EDIN.

From the Tranſactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Vol. IV.

THE cuſtom which this Society has eſtabliſhed, of giving ſome account of the lives of its deceaſed members, is in every caſe gratifying to friendſhip, in many intereſting to curioſity, but in thoſe which ſerve to record the purſuits and occupations of men of letters, it is more ſtrictly and properly an object coming within the true views of a literary inſtitution. The hiſtory of the authors is always in a great degree the hiſtory of the literature of a country; and even exclusive of an immediate relation to their works, the narrative of their private and domeſtic habits is often, in a moral point of view, uſeful and intereſting to the ſcholar and the author. In both theſe reſpects, I may claim the attention of the Society to the following ſhort account of the life and writings of our late worthy colleague, Mr WILLIAM TYTLER.

Mr Tytler was the ſon of Mr Alexander Tytler, writer in Edinburgh, by Jane, daughter of Mr William Leſlie, merchant in Aberdeen, and grandaughter of Sir Patrick Leſlie of Iden, provoſt of Aberdeen. He was born in Edinburgh, October 12. 1711. He received his education at the High ſchool and Univerſity of his native city, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf by an early proficiency in thoſe claſſical ſtudies which, to the lateſt period of his life, were the occupation of his leiſure hours, and a principal ſource of his mental enjoyments.

In the year 1731, he attended the academical lectures of Mr Alexander Bayne, Profeſſor of Municipal Law in the Univerſity of Edinburgh, a gentleman diſtinguiſhed alike for his profeſſional knowledge, his literary accompliſhments, and the elegance of his taſte. The Profeſſor found in his pupil a congenial ſpirit, and their connection, notwithſtanding the diſparity of their years, was ſoon ripened into all the intimacy of the ſtricteſt friendſhip. So ſtrong, indeed, became at length that tie of affection, that the worthy Profeſſor, in his latter years, not only made him the companion of his ſtudies, but, when at length the victim of a lingering diſeaſe, choſe him as the comforter of thoſe many painful and melancholy hours which preceded his death.

At the age of thirty-one, Mr Tytler was admitted into the Society of Writers to his Majeſty's Signet, and continued the practice of that profeſſion with very good ſucceſs, and with equal reſpect from his clients and the public, till his death, which happened on the 12th of September 1792. He married, in September 1745, Anne Craig, daughter of Mr James Craig of Dalnair, writer to the ſignet, by whom he has left two ſons, Alexander Fraſer Tytler, his Majeſty's Judge-Advocate

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vocate for Scotland, and Profeſſor of Civil Hiſtory in the Univerſity of Edinburgh, and Major Patrick Tytler, Fort-Major of the Caſtle of Stirling; and one daughter, Miſs Chriſtina Tytler. His wife died about nine years before him, and previouſly to that period, he had loſt a ſon and a daughter, both grown to maturity.

It is perhaps only in ſmaller communities, like that of Edinburgh, that the union of buſineſs and literary ſtudies can eaſily take place. In larger ſocieties, ſuch as that of London, there the profeſſional objects are greater and more extenſive, and the different claſſes of men are more decidedly ſeparated from one another, there is a ſort of diviſion of mind as well as of labour, that makes the lawyer or the merchant a perfect lawyer or merchant, whoſe mind and time are wholly engroſſed by the objects of his profeſſion, and whom it might conſiderably diſcredit among his brethren of that profeſſion, were he to devote any portion of either to claſſical ſtudy or literary compoſition. In Edinburgh it is otherwiſe: the profeſſional duties are not, in general, ſo extenſive as to engroſs the whole man, and his connections in ſociety extending through many different claſſes of his fellow-citizens, he has opportunities of converſing, of reading, and of thinking on other objects than merely thoſe immediately relating to the buſineſs which he follows. This is perhaps the moſt agreeable ſtate of ſociety of any, which, if it may ſometimes prevent the higheſt degree of profeſſional eminence and ſkill, (though even on that ground many arguments might be offered in its favour), certainly tends to enlarge the mind, and to poliſh the manners; to give a charm and a dignity to ordinary life, that they may be thought ill exchanged for the inordinate accumulation of wealth, or the ſelfiſh enjoyment of profeſſional importance.

Among that Society of which Mr Tytler, at the period I have mentioned, was admitted a member, the Writers to the Signet, there were always many individuals poſſeſſed of much general learning and knowledge; and the claſſical education which was generally beſtowed on young men deſtined for that Society, frequently led them to indulge in hiſtorical and literary diſquiſitions, little connected with the ordinary courſe of their profeſſional employments. Mr Tytler was one of thoſe who, from his earlieſt years, had applied himſelf to letters and claſſical ſtudy; and amidſt an accurate knowledge and unremitting attention to his buſineſs, he never ceaſed to cultivate and to enjoy them.

The moſt remarkable feature of Mr Tytler's character was an ardour and activity of mind, prompted always by a ſtrong ſenſe of rectitude and honour. He felt with equal warmth the love of virtue, and the hatred of vice; he was not apt to diſguiſe either feeling, nor to compromiſe, as ſome men more complying with the world might have done, with the faſhion of the time, or the diſpoſition of thoſe around him. He ſeldom waved an argument on any topic of hiſtory, of politics or literature; he never retreated from one on any ſubject that touched thoſe more important points on which he had formed a decided opinion. Decided opinions it was his turn to form; and he expreſſed them with a warmth equal to that with which he felt them. He took ſtrong common-ſenſe views of objects, not from want of acuteneſs to perceive leſs palpable relations, but from that warmth and ardent caſt of mind to which ſuch views are more congenial than the ſubtleties of abſtract or metaphyſical diſquiſition.

Nor was it in opinion or argument only that this warmth and ardour of mind were conſpicuous. They prompted him equally in action and conduct. His affection to his family, his attachment to his friends and companions, his compaſſion for the unfortunate,

were

were alike warm and active. He was in ſentiment alſo what Johnſon (who felt it ſtrongly in himſelf, and mentions it as the encomium of one of his friends) calls a *good hater*; but his hatred or reſentment went no further than opinion or words, his better affections only roſe into action. In his opinions, or in his expreſſion of them, there were ſometimes a vehemence, an appearance of acrimony, which his friends might regret, which ſtrangers might cenſure; but he had no aſperity in his mind to influence his actual conduct in life. He indulged oppoſition, not enmity; and the world was juſt to him in return; he had opponents, but I ſincerely believe not a ſingle enemy. His conteſts were on opinions, not on things; his diſputes were hiſtorical and literary. In converſation, he carried on theſe with uncommon intereſt and vivacity; and the ſame kind of impulſe which prompted his converſation (as is juſtly obſerved by an author, who publiſhed ſome notices of his life and character in the periodical work entituled The Bee) induced him to become an author. He wrote not from vanity or vain-glory, which Rouſſeau holds to be the only inducement to writing; he wrote to open his mind upon paper; to ſpeak to the public thoſe opinions which he had often ſpoken in private; opinions on the truth of which he had firmly made up his own conviction, and was ſometimes ſurpriſed when he could not convince others; it was fair to try, if, by a fuller expoſition of his arguments, he could convince the world.

With this view he publiſhed, in 1759, his "Enquiry, hiſtorical and critical, into the Evidence againſt Mary Queen of Scots, and an Examination of the Hiſtories of Dr Robertſon and Mr Hume with reſpect to that Evidence;" in which he warmly eſpouſed the cauſe of the unfortunate Princeſs, attacked with ſeverity the conduct of her enemies, and expoſed the fallacy, in many parts of the fabrication, of thoſe proofs on which the charges againſt her had been founded. This work was the firſt on that ſide of this celebrated queſtion which intereſted the public in general, and appealed in behalf of the Queen to the judgment and feelings of the people. The learned and induſtrious Mr Walter Goodall had, ſeveral years before, publiſhed his examination of the Letters of Mary, on which her accuſers had ſo much reſted as evidence of her guilt; but that examination, however elaborate and acute, was not well calculated, either in form or ſtyle, for general peruſal. Mr Tytler's work gave to the arguments of Goodall the conciſeneſs and comprehenſion neceſſary to command the attention of the reader, ſupported them by a variety of new proofs and illuſtrations, and drew from the general hiſtory of the period in queſtion, and from the characters of the leading actors of the ſcene, arguments more impreſſing and intereſting than any which mere verbal criticiſm of the letters, or an examination of cotemporary documents, could ſupply. The firſt editions of the Enquiry were in one volume 8vo.; but the author afterwards conſiderably enlarged it, particularly in the hiſtorical part, and publiſhed, in 1790, an edition (being the fourth) in two volumes of the ſame ſize.

The problem of Mary's guilt or innocence, (to uſe the language of a near relation of Mr Tytler's, expreſſive indeed of Mr Tytler's own ſentiments on the ſubject), if conſidered merely as a detached hiſtorical fact, would appear an object which, at this diſtance of time, ſeems hardly to merit that laborious and earneſt inveſtigation to which it has given riſe; though, even in this point of view, the mind is naturally ſtimulated to ſearch out the truth of a dark myſterious event, diſgraceful to human nature; and our feelings of juſtice and moral rectitude are intereſted to fix the guilt upon its true authors. But when we conſider

that this queſtion involves a diſcuſſion of the politics of both England and Scotland, during one of the moſt intereſting periods of their hiſtory, and touches the characters, not only of the two ſovereigns, but of their miniſters and ſtateſmen, it muſt then be regarded in the light of a moſt important hiſtorical enquiry, without which our knowledge of the hiſtory of our own country, and of that political connection with England, which from that time influenced all ſtate affairs in Scotland, muſt be obſcure, confuſed, and unſatisfactory. In addition to theſe motives of enquiry, this queſtion has exerciſed ſome of the ableſt heads both of the former and of latter times; and it is no mean pleaſure to engage in a conteſt of genius and of talents, and to try our ſtrength in the deciſion of a controverſy, which has been maintained on both ſides with conſummate ability.

If to perſons, however, of cooler and leſs ſanguine tempers, it ſhould ſtill appear ſingular, that any ancient hiſtorical diſquiſition ſhould ſo keenly engage the minds and the paſſions of literary men, it may perhaps be obſerved, that it is on objects of this ſort that theſe are frequently more occupied and excited, than on others which might at firſt ſight appear better calculated to occupy and excite them. On objects of preſent and immediate concern, the mind and the affections have certain limits to which the actual and known intereſt neceſſarily confines them. The others have a ſort of ideal range which no ſuch fixed and certain boundary reſtrains. The intereſt is created, not found, and the fancy foſters and nouriſhes the ſubject of its own creation, till it engroſſes the attention and excites the paſſions to a degree that muſt appear very extraordinary to thoſe who conſider it in its natural and unexaggerated colours. Diſputes of literary as well as political enthuſiaſm, have therefore been generally the moſt obſtinate and warm of any; and this, which is quaintly termed the Marian controverſy, of all ſuch diſputes the keeneſt. Even Mr Hume, placid as he was from nature, and accuſtomed, from his earlieſt literary life, to contradiction and attack, loſt ſomewhat of his uſual temper on the occaſion, and ſubjoined an angry note to the latter editions of his Hiſtory, which I ſhall not quote, becauſe, from my reſpect for his memory, I am rather inclined to wiſh that it had not been written.

Without venturing any opinion on the queſtion itſelf, it may be ſufficient in this place to ſay, that Mr Tytler acquired high reputation by his diſcuſſion of it. The Enquiry was univerſally read in Britain, and very well tranſlated into French, under the title of "Recherches Hiſtoriques et Critiques ſur les principales Preuves de l'Accuſation intentée contre Marie Reine d'Ecoſſe." The intereſt it excited among literary men, may be judged of from the character of thoſe by whom it was reviewed on its publication, in the periodical works of the time. Dr Douglas, now Biſhop of Saliſbury, Dr Samuel Johnſon, Dr John Campbell, and Dr Smollet, all wrote reviews of Mr Tytler's book, containing very particular accounts of its merits, and elaborate analyſes of the chain of its arguments. As an argument on *evidence*, no ſuffrage could perhaps be more deciſive of its merit, than that of one of the greateſt lawyers, and indeed one of the ableſt men that ever ſat on the woolſack of England, the late Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, who declared Mr Tytler's Enquiry to be the beſt concatenation of circumſtantiate proofs brought to bear upon one point, that he had ever peruſed. What effect that body of evidence, or the arguments deduced from it, ought to have upon the minds of thoſe to whom the ſubject becomes matter of inveſtigation, I do not preſume to determine. The opinion of the late Dr Henry, author of The Hiſtory